



*The Judiciary, State of Hawaii*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by

Tom Mick

Policy and Planning Department Head, Judiciary

**WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 304, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to State Finances

**Purpose:** Appropriates moneys from the general fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports Section 61 of House Bill No. 304, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D.1, which appropriates \$975,000 from the general fund to the Judiciary for domestic violence services. Legislative actions in 2009 reduced the Judiciary's FY 2010 budget base by \$11.5 million (7.6% from FY 2009 to FY 2010) and eliminated 79 positions or 4% of the Judiciary's permanent workforce. Further cuts were made to Judiciary's budget base in the following two fiscal years so its budget is now at less than \$133 million, or a more than 13% reduction since FY 2009. This necessitated significant cuts in funding for domestic violence services by the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Circuits, as well as the various treatment courts. Some programs were eliminated while others were significantly reduced. These cuts led to fewer services being available and fewer clients served, and longer waits to access services. They also contributed to the loss of 10 or more staff in direct service to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, resulting in a decrease in parenting groups, crisis intervention services, victim support, and batterers treatment; a reduction in temporary restraining order (TRO) clients served at various



House Bill No. 304, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D.1, Relating to State Finances  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 2, 2012  
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sites, and victim services delivered; a significant reduction in safety planning services and other services to children exposed to domestic violence; an increase in wait time for batterers trying to enter treatment and counseling services, which means more untreated batterers residing in communities, decreasing the safety of their victims and the community in general; a decrease in the number of sites available to obtain services for batterers, victims, or children – on the Neighbor Islands this often means that services are unavailable unless the person seeking services has access to a car and is able to drive many miles; increases in requirements and fees for fee-for-services, making programs unavailable to those who cannot pay; a decrease in supervised visitations; a reduction in service provider staff work hours; and waitlists for almost all services, including waitlists for TRO support and filings. Court statistics show that from FY 2008 to FY 2011, domestic abuse protective order filings increased by more than 16%, even as the availability and extent of domestic violence services were decreasing. While some relief occurred with the passage of Act 191, SLH 2010, which provided \$1 million from the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund to the Judiciary for domestic violence services, these funds will expire at the end of FY 2012 and the Judiciary does not have any funds available to absorb this loss and thereby continue these services. The proposed appropriation would enable us to continue such services at the present level, assuming no other cuts are made to the Judiciary budget.

The Judiciary also supports the intent of Section 64 to appropriate funds for the Veterans Treatment Court. However, it only appropriates \$1 for just one year, FY 2013. House Bill No. 2798, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, related to Veterans Court proposes positions and funding and may be a more appropriate vehicle for this.

The Judiciary offers the following comments on Sections 62 and 63 of House Bill No. 304, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D.1, which appropriate funds from the general fund to the Judiciary for the following organizations: Domestic Violence Action Center to provide specialized legal and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence (\$570,000), Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to provide pro bono legal services for indigent persons (\$300,000), Legal Aid Society of Hawaii to provide general civil legal services (\$800,000), and Hawaii Family Law Clinic to provide services to obtain TROs (\$282,000). The identified funding would be helpful to these programs, which provide valuable services to Hawaii's citizens and have suffered along with many other organizations as a result of the economic situation in Hawaii. However, the Judiciary's concern is to ensure that because the funding amounts identified constitute an addition to the original Judiciary budget request contained in House Bill No. 1800, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, their addition does not come with a corresponding reduction to any items already included in our base budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 304, H.D.1, Proposed S.D.1.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 304, H.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 1

April 3, 2012

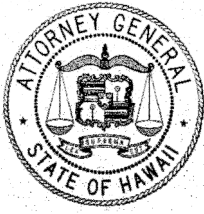
RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

House Bill No. 304, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, appropriates \$67,620,555 in general funds for 72 grants-in-aid and departmental programs in the Departments of the Attorney General, Education, Health, Human Services, and Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Judiciary. The bill appropriates \$9,749,630 for various grants-in-aid and \$57,870,925 for various departmental programs.

The department recognizes that assisting non-profit, health and human services agencies is a significant role and support of government. Given the sizable appropriation proposed in this bill, the committee should consider the accountability and fiscal sustainability of these levels of funding. For a number of departments, this funding would represent an expansion of current departmental programs. Furthermore, as we've all experienced over the past economic downcycle of the last 5-6 years, funding levels for departments, agencies and even non-profit organizations were not sustainable. The State rightfully expects governmental departments and agencies to operate more efficiently and accountably coming out of the economic recession. As fiscal budgets start to return to capacity, the same should be exhibited and expected of State grantees. Given the current economic conditions, I question whether it is financially prudent to establish increased funding levels at this

junction since those levels will not be sustainable. A more fiscally cautious approach should be undertaken when considering departmental program expansions.

I encourage the Legislature to consider both the short-term and long-term impacts of major increases in recurring expenditures at this juncture.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2012**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 304, H.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 1, RELATING TO STATE FINANCES.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Julie Ebato, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division Administrator

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Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (the "Department") supports the intent of this bill. In regard to section 73 that relates to the Department, we strongly support the \$466,140 for statewide sexual assault crisis and clinical services for adult victims of sexual assault and minors and their families of extra-familial sexual assault. We have asked for that funding to be placed in H.B. No. 2012, Relating to the State Budget. In the event that it is not included in H.B. No. 2012, however, we certainly support including that funding in this bill. This is a recurring cost and a program within the Department.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the recommended amendment.

**Date:** 04/03/2012

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0304,HD1,SD1 Proposed (HSCR727-12) RELATING TO STATE FINANCES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows the Department of Budget and Finance to enter into agreements with other bond issuers to pool bond allocations. (HB304 HD1)

**Department's Position:**  
The Department of Education supports this bill.


NEIL  
ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S.  
MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAILUKU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
355 SO. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Beverly Stanich, Principal 

DATE: March 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Support for Read Aloud Program-RAP

Our school has been fortunate enough to participate in the RAP program for two nonconsecutive years, 2009-10 and 2011-12. We ask that you consider the short and long term benefits our students and families experienced when deciding on funding the continuation of this program

RAP addresses literacy and strengthens family values. Active and involved parents took full advantage of the program, attending multiple sessions. But RAP's special appeal is to that growing population of parents that don't usually become involved with the school. It reaches those segments of our community that typically don't come out for school events by providing them with dinner for their family and food for their minds. It teaches parents the importance of reading to and with their children using humor and building a sense of excitement. It draws them into using the public library, to spending more time as a family and less time watching TV.

In each year that we participated, we experienced the largest turnout at parent events in the history of our school-increases in excess of 300%. Parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive, asking for RAP to be a constant, continuously offered event. This led to us participating for the second year, with the hope that it will be supported and funded for the future and for other schools to experience.

We know first hand the constraints placed on budgets in this economy. The decisions you make with limited funding are tough ones. We ask that you keep RAP in mind when it comes to programs that make a difference in the lives of our children and the families raising our next generation. Thank you for your consideration.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

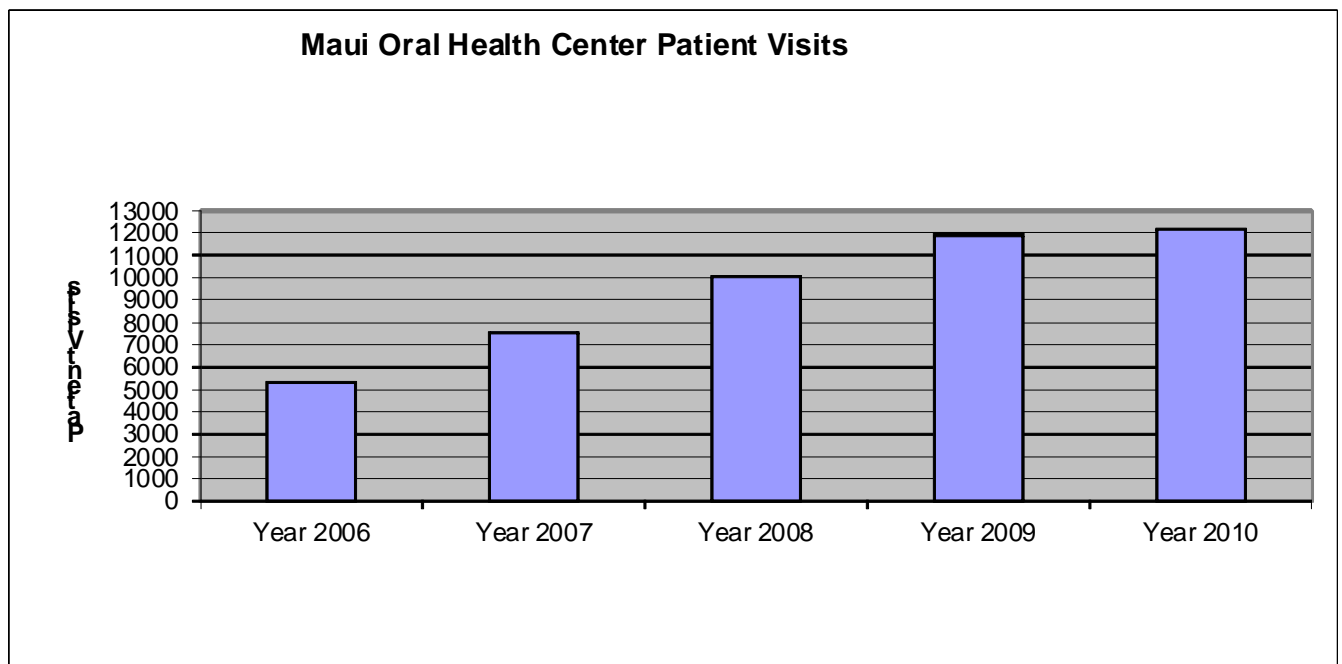
Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 3, 2012 at 8:30am

by  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai‘i

HB304 HD1 Proposed SD1 - RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The support from the Hawai‘i Department of Human Services, through a Taskorder from 2002- 2010, the “Rainy Day fund” in 2011, and the County of Maui have allowed development of the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center (MOHC). The Mission of the MOHC is Education and Service. The MOHC provides the clinical education site for the Dental Assisting (DA) Certificate and The Dental Hygiene (DH) Associate Degree Programs. In addition, it services as the primary access to dental care for Medicaid eligible and uninsured dental patients on Maui. Currently, UH Maui College MOHC has 2 full time staff dentists, and 2 dentists enrolled in the residence program from Lutheran Medical Center in New York. The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredits all the DA, DH, and Dental Residency programs. The table below illustrates the number of patient visits. There are between 800-1,000 patient visits per month at the Maui Oral Health Center.





In 2011 UHMC was recognized by the Hawai'i Dental Association in January 2011 for collaborative activities to enhance dental care on Maui and in Hawai'i (see attached information). It is important to note that without access to dental care, patients with acute dental problem seek care in the Maui Memorial Medical Center Emergency room, the most expensive care possible.

The table below illustrates DHS data that shows the cost of flying dental patients to O'ahu for care. The low number of patients flow to O'ahu from Maui is due to access on Maui at MOHC.

**Neighbor Island patients to O'ahu 7/1/09-6/30/10**

	# Children	\$ Children	# Adult	\$ Adult	TOTAL #	TOTAL \$
<b>Hilo</b>	1752	\$517,892.60	7	\$ 1,148.20	1759	\$519,040.80
<b>Kona</b>	382	\$120,716.59	4	\$ 1,259.30	386	\$121,975.89
<b>Maui</b>	187	\$ 57,859.72	27	\$ 5,174.35	214	\$ 63,034.07
<b>Lana'i</b>	8	\$ 2,496.00	2	\$ 669.00	10	\$ 3,165.00
<b>Kaua'i</b>	371	\$112,440.17	86	\$15,330.54	457	\$127,770.71
<b>Moloka'i</b>	106	\$ 46,741.10	8	\$ 2,466.60	114	\$ 49,207.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2806</b>	<b>\$858,146.18</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$26,047.99</b>	<b>2940</b>	<b>\$884,194.17</b>

The proposed \$100,000 of Department of Human Services support for "adult dental care" would permit the University of Hawai'i Maui College Maui Oral Health Center to provide oral care as well as an educational lab for Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene students.

# Group effort led to UH-MC dental initiatives

**KA'ANA MANA'O**  
by Clyde Sakamoto



Last month, the Hawaii Dental Association recognized Nancy Johnson and me for our roles in developing the Maui Oral Health Care Center and University of Hawaii Maui College dental programs. But we represent only two players in a much larger cast that brought basic dental health care services to Maui.

Ten years ago, Maui County District Health Officer Lorrin Pang and Dr. Fumio Tsuji advised the college that one third of our local residents lacked basic oral care. The college

leadership confirmed that the need was dire and that our local percentages reflected state and national statistics.

Responding to the oral care needs of our community was complex and required the help of a large number of supportive partners.

But identifying unmet needs and addressing important, persistent challenges provide higher education with opportunities to serve students and community simultaneously; that's the story behind the Maui Oral Health Care Center and the college's dental programs.

In 2002, the college established the center when Dr. Mickey Damerell donated dental equipment, and Herb Ushiroda, owner of a local dental office, installed an access ele-

vator in his building and offered the college a favorable lease.

College faculty and staff collaborated to develop the Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene Programs and the Maui Oral Health Center. In the spring of 2003, the Dental Assisting program graduated its first students.

The Dental Hygiene program was added in 2009.

To make the program self-sustaining, the mayor, Maui County Council and state directors of health and human services helped develop funding and Medicaid support for the college, benefiting both dental services and the education program.

Finally, the college partnered with the New York Lutheran Medical Center Den-

tal Residence Program, which brought us three dental residents and two staff dentists. They serve patients and offer clinical practice opportunities for UH-MC students.

And what difference has this made? In 2010, the center provided dental care to more than 3,000 patients in more than 11,000 appointments. Overall, the program has served approximately 8,000 patients for a total of 61,700 appointments. By May 2011, 142 dental assistants and nine dental hygienists will have completed their respective programs.

Our program owes its vitality to the many community members who have contributed their time, expertise, and resources.

We are indebted to more

than 50 Maui dentists, 30 organizations, and 100 donors — including the Strong Foundation.

Dr. James Merrett of Maui Smiles has been involved in the Maui Oral Health Initiative since 2002.

He and many other dentists have been guest lecturers and UH-MC Dental Advisory Committee members. They have also funded supplies, student scholarships, and externship sites in their offices.

Dr. Merrett said he has enjoyed being involved with the programs.

"It gives me a chance to give back to my community and raise the level of dental care to the public," he said. "The students that graduate from the program are equipped with the skills that I need to

run my office efficiently, while offering optimal care to our patients."

There were many, many people who helped create and sustain these programs and services. We celebrate our many partners and are grateful for the kokua we continue to receive.

■ *Clyde Sakamoto is chancellor of the University of Hawaii Maui College. Ka'ana Mana'o, which means "sharing thoughts," is scheduled to appear on the fourth Sunday of each month. It is penned by UH Maui College staff and is intended to provide the community of Maui County information about opportunities available through the college at its Kahului campus and its education centers.*



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII  
**MAUI COLLEGE**

*Mahalo* from the Maui Oral Health Initiative

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE FACULTY**

- \*Dr. Daniel Mayeda, DDS, Initial Dental Director
- Rosie Vierra, MS, RDH, Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator
- Joyce Yamada, MS, RDH, Dental Assisting Program Coordinator
- June Vierra, MS, RDH, Initial Dental Assisting Program Coordinator
- \*Dr. Spencer Owades, DMD, Current Dental Director
- Dr. Steven Farmer, DH, Pharmacology Instructor
- Dr. Joanne Gabot, Dental Assisting Instructor
- Stacy Hanada, RDH, Dental Hygiene Instructor
- \*Dr. Frank Kihara, DDS, Dental Hygiene Instructor
- Dr. Emi Orikasa, DDS, Dental Hygiene Instructor
- \*Dr. Melaine Vallejos, DDS, Dental Hygiene Instructor

**DENTISTS**

- Dr. Cally Adams, DDS
- Dr. Leslie Arakaki, DDS
- Dr. Dean Arashiro, DDS
- Dr. Barkley Bastian, DDS
- Dr. Suji Bhatia, DDS
- Dr. Robert Berger, DDS
- Dr. John Boarini, DDS
- Dr. David Breese, DDS
- Dr. Todd Carter, DDS
- \*Dr. Micheal Clarke, DDS\*
- Dr. Peter Conmy, DDS
- \*Dr. Mickey Damerell, DDS
- Dr. John Dodson, DDS
- Dr. John Dugan, DDS
- Dr. Peter Fay, DMD
- Dr. Ross Fujimoto, DDS
- \*Dr. Earl Hasegawa, DDS
- Dr. Guy Horie, DDS
- Dr. Stephen Hubert, DDS
- Dr. Dennis Ishimoto, DDS
- Dr. Christina Isaacs, DDS
- \*Dr. Sam Ishimura, DDS
- Dr. Glenn Kadohiro, DDS
- Dr. Scott Kanamori, DDS
- \*Dr. Ted Kanamori, DDS\*
- \*Dr. Carl Kobayashi, DDS
- \*Dr. Jonathan Lau, DDS\*
- Dr. Christopher McNeil, DDS
- \*Dr. James Merrett, DDS\*
- Dr. Thomas Milovina, DDS
- Dr. Alan Miyamoto, DDS
- Dr. Michael Miyamoto, DDS
- \*Dr. Neil Nunokawa, DDS\*
- Dr. Lance Ogata, DDS
- Dr. Glenn Okuda, DMD
- Dr. Kevin Omuro, DMD
- \*Dr. Richard Rasmussen, DDS
- Dr. Gloria Rongcal, DMD
- Dr. Wendy Schwab, DDS
- Dr. Howard Shimokawa, DDS
- \*Dr. Brady Shirota, DDS
- Dr. Ted Shirota, DDS
- \*Dr. Norman Snow, DDS
- Dr. Dana Takashima, DDS
- Dr. Paul Thomas, DDS
- \*Dr. Fumio Tsuji, DDS\*
- \*Dr. Byron Tsukano, DDS
- Dr. Bonnie Uehara, DDS
- Dr. John Uehara, DDS
- Dr. Ron Wallach, DMD
- \*Dr. Steve Williams, DDS
- \*Dr. Elsa Wittbold, DDS
- \*Dr. Margaret Wiff, DDS
- \*Daryl Yamada, DDS
- Dr. Randall Yee, DDS
- Dr. Shaun Wright, DDS
- Dr. Ken Zielinski, DDS

**MAUI ORAL HEALTH CENTER STAFF**

- Jessica Brock, CDA
- Rae Demello-Orta, DA
- Doralee Flores, CDA
- Elsa Harbin
- Najmeh Hannavesh, DDS, Dental Resident
- Donna Harty, RDH
- Joanne Kennedy, CDA
- Robert Leonard, DDS, Dental Resident
- Cindy Nakamura, CDA
- Patricia Knobloch, CDA
- David Ohta, CDA
- Mara Sandi, CDA\*
- Debbie Sinclair, CDA
- Elizabeth Smith, DDS, Dental Resident
- Veronica Smith, CDA
- Linda Visitacion
- Sandra Yoshizawa, CDA

**ORGANIZATIONS**

- \*Alexander and Baldwin
- Bail Hawaii
- Church of Good Shepherd
- Community Clinic of Maui
- \*Department of Labor, RDP
- \*Frank M. & Gertrude R. Doyle Foundation
- \*Hawaii Dental Association
- \*Hawaii Dental Service
- Hawaii Family Dental Centers
- \*HMSA Foundation
- \*Hawaii State Legislature
- \*Henry Schein Dental
- \*Lutheran Medical Center Dental Residency
- March of Dimes
- \*Maui County Council
- Maui County Dental Alliance
- \*Maui County Dental Hygienists' Association
- \*Maui County Dental Society
- Maui Drug Court
- Makawao Union Church
- Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc
- \*Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation
- \*Office for Social Ministry, Catholic Church
- Po'okela Church
- Research Corporation University of Hawaii
- \*Strong Foundation
- \*University of Hawaii Foundation
- Wailuku Dental Group
- \*Young Brothers, Ltd.

**INDIVIDUALS**

- \*Mayor Alan Arakawa
- Lyndon & Betty Babcock
- Jeny Bissell, RN, PHN
- Dr. Shirley Beaver
- Patricia Capps, CDA, RDH, MS
- Bruce & Kris Chandler
- Krista Dusek, CDA
- David Eisenberg
- Kathy Fay
- Linda Fukunaga
- Chris Gilbert MITC
- Andrea Hetherington, CDA\*
- S. Hartzell
- Eric Hendren
- Stephen Hersh
- Marcia Hoffman

- Mike Huddleston
- Terry Hurt
- Eleanor Isaacson
- Cindy Ishimoto
- Senator Daniel Inouye
- Jitsuo Yoshimori Trust
- James Johnson
- Kahoe Family Trust
- Marge Kelm, RN, MS
- \*Lu Kepler, RN, PHN
- \*Lenore Knobel
- Carolyn Kuba, MS, RDH
- Lillian Koller
- Kaye Lundberg
- Nora Macareg, RDH\*
- Debs Mapel, RDH
- Leanne Nadai, RDH\*
- Late Representative Bob Nakasone
- \*Dr. Lorrin Pang, MD
- Carol Petity-Zbiciak, RN, MSN
- Nelson Sakamoto
- Diana Sullivan, CDA, LDA, MS
- \*Phyllis Spragge, MS, RDH
- \*Mayor Charmaine Tavares
- Solomon Tokunaga
- Ruth Tsujimura
- \*Herb Ushiroda
- Gertrude Ueoka, RN, MSN
- Doris Ventura
- Gwen Welling

**MAUI ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE!!!**

\*Major Supporter

\*UH Maui College Dental Advisory Committee Member

DATE: 2 April 2012

ATTN: Committee on Finance

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, 3 April 2012

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 8:30AM

**HB 304**, in reference to HB 2798 HD3 SD1: **RELATING TO A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT**. Establishes the Temporary Hawaii Veterans Treatment Court within the First Judicial Circuit Court. Appropriates funds

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Note to clerk: (Please print 4 copies including original)

Good morning, Honorable chairpersons and committee members. I am Dr. Kenneth Hirsch, Director of the Traumatic Stress Disorders Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS). I am also a Veteran. I appreciate this opportunity to **strongly support HB 304 and HB 2798 HD3 SD1**, a bill for the establishment of a temporary **Veterans' Treatment Court** in Hawaii.

Ladies and Gentleman, currently, there are 1.7 million Veterans of these wars in the United States (Dept of VA). A 12 March 2007 Journal of Internal Medicine article estimates that as many as 25-30% of returning Veterans suffer from mental illness, with the lowest estimates in other studies being in the range of 18-20%, including primarily posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, other anxiety disorders and substance use disorders. Compounding this is the incidence of postconcussion syndrome, more commonly referred to as traumatic brain injury (TBI). The substance use disorders most commonly develop as a result of the Veteran's efforts at self-medication. Sadly, the symptoms of certain of these combat injuries sometimes lead directly to behaviors that involve Veterans in the judicial system, this being especially true of PTSD and postconcussion syndrome, and the secondary substance use disorders. Each of these causes impairment in judgment in two different and equally important realms:

1. Interpretation of situations: there is increased and unrealistic perception of risk, danger and threat. This presents as hypervigilance and paranoia, distrust of others and is characterized further by a lack of recognition of the person's inaccurate interpretation.
2. Selection of behavioral responses, with a tendency towards immediate lashing out, either verbal or physical, with clear deficits in the ability to consider consequences of behavior before acting, and further difficulties in understanding the inappropriateness of one's actions.

Both of these involve problems in what is referred to as "executive functioning": this includes functions like sequential planning, thinking before acting, exercising self-control over impulses, attention & concentration and insight into one's own thinking and behavior.

It is the purpose of a Veteran's Treatment Court to divert Veterans who have run afoul of the law as a result of such injuries and consequent difficulties into treatment rather than incarceration. Such a proposition is predicated upon:

1. The belief that if the violations came about as a result of injuries sustained in the service of our country, the Veteran deserves treatment for the injury and special consideration in terms of legal consequences.
2. The experience of other such special courts has shown that such diversion results in a far lower rate of recidivism than that demonstrated by other offenders, and by Veteran offenders who do not enter such diversion programs.
3. The cost savings generated by such special courts are far in excess of the costs of the courts and other supportive infrastructure.
4. The majority of the cost of treatment is transferred from the State and local community to the federal government (Department of Veterans Affairs), by virtue of agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care System, which has already committed to provide the treatment necessary for all eligible Veterans – a service which it cannot provide to incarcerated Veterans.

I would like to offer a few other supporting points for consideration:

1. At the beginning of the calendar year, there were 408 incarcerated Veterans in Hawaii jails, excluding any in federal facilities. Based upon a screening of probation records, it is estimated that there are currently between 30 and 50 potential Veteran participants in such a diversion program.
2. While a Veterans' Treatment Court would require funding, with incarceration costs of roughly \$50,000 per year, successful diversion of only six Veterans would not only pay for the Court, but provide savings for the State.
3. In Buffalo, statistics from the longest operating Veterans' Treatment Court indicate that:
  - a. 90% of enrollees complete the diversion program successfully.
  - b. The recidivism rate for those completing the program is zero percent (0%).
4. A Veterans' Treatment Court is different from the existing Mental Health and Drug Courts. Indeed, Judge Russell, in Buffalo, who started the first Veterans' Treatment Court, was the presiding judge for the Mental Health and Drug Courts in Buffalo, and found that the special characteristics of both the Veterans and the combination of service-related injuries were far more effectively dealt with by a distinct special court than by attempting to utilize the existing Mental Health and Drug Courts. The Veterans' Treatment Court does not represent a duplication of services or processes; the problems addressed by the Veterans' Treatment Court are qualitatively different from those addressed by Mental Health and Drug Courts, and the interventions are similarly different. For example, Mental Health Court does not address either Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury. No existing special courts include a mentorship program, a critical component of the Veterans Treatment Court, and one which the VA-PIHCS has committed to developing.

At a prior Committee hearing, the question was posed as to the level of financial contribution the VA would be making with regards to the proposed Veterans' Treatment Court were the Bill to be implemented. I include the following as cost estimates in response to that question:

Mental Health care may include both outpatient and residential care for PTSD, as well as depression, substance abuse, etc.

Programmatic costs:

- Salary/benefits for the Veteran Justice Outreach staff member and the Veterans' Treatment Court Mentorship Coordinator (GS11 and GS12 respectively): estimated at \$85,280 and \$114,081 respectively, for a total of \$199,361.

Per patient costs are roughly,

- Outpatient, evidence-based treatment for PTSD: \$ 3,200
- Medication management for one year: \$ 2,000
- Other groups and individual sessions for one year: \$ 4,900
- Substance abuse treatment, *if necessary*, for one year: \$ 3,500
- Residential PTSD treatment, *if necessary*: \$ 24,000

The above programmatic and per patient costs exclude:

- Costs of inpatient psychiatric treatment if such should become necessary.
- Vocational rehabilitation and supported employment services and disability payments for which the participant may well be eligible, and for which he/she would not be eligible if incarcerated.

In terms of the costs that would accrue to the State of Hawaii, the last estimates that I have regarding the estimated budget is less than an appropriation of \$250,000 per year, including the dollars requested in HB 2798 by the Judiciary and unspecified amounts likely to be needed to augment the Offices of the Prosecutor and the Public Defender.

Assuming the following:

- Estimated incarceration cost slightly in excess of \$50,000 per year;
- Success rate of approximately 85% (as opposed to the 90% rate observed elsewhere);
- Participation by only 30 of the estimated currently eligible 40 Veterans in the judicial system currently (higher participation rate is anticipated);

It is estimated that savings would accrue to the State slightly in excess of \$1,000,000 annually:

- Cost if incarcerated for one year:  $30 \times \$50,000 = \$1,500,000$
  - Cost assuming 85% success rate (15% failing and becoming incarcerated): \$225,000
  - Anticipated annual savings: \$1,275,000
- With a program cost of even \$300,000 to the State, success with only 6 of 30 participants would yield a break even situation for the State.

I would emphasize that the fiscal savings do not even begin to address the social savings that have been demonstrated in similar programs nationwide.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of this very important piece of legislation, which I urge you to both pass and fund.

TO : COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.  
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 8:30 am Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: HB 304 Proposed SD1 Relating to State Finances. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to support programs essential to education, public health, and public welfare and begin to repair the decimated safety net.

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, supports HB 304 Proposed SD 1. Our priorities are as follows:

- 1) \$1.4 million in the Governor's budget for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, which when implemented will enable the State to draw down Federal funds to cover much of the operating expenses;
- 2) \$4.8 million to maintain services in the home for 1300-3000 frail elderly persons;
- 3) \$426,722 to maintain the Healthy Aging Partnership program which has been shown to save significant expenses by lower emergency room use, lower hospital admissions, fewer physician visits, and overall higher levels of functioning through chronic disease management and senior fitness for vulnerable elderly.

#### RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

The reductions in services have jeopardized the well-being of the most vulnerable populations in our state. Although we know the available funds are still limited as we make a slow economic recovery, there are some funds which can be used to address these serious health and social needs.

The programs which maintain the health and functioning of frail seniors and which enable them to be cared for by their families in their homes are highly cost-effective by reducing health costs, reducing expensive residential/institutional placement, and reducing enrollment in Medicaid.

The needs of our seniors for services such as meals are immediate – they can't be postponed. Ignoring them will have immediate negative consequences. We need to meet these basic needs and live up to our community values as the Aloha state.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
April 3, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Ige and Kidani and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 304 HD1 Proposed SD1 – RELATING TO FINANCES

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 304 HD1 Proposed SD1**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate moneys from the general fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, welfare, and education.

The Council appreciates the Legislature's action through this bill to restore essential health and human services that were cut or terminated over the past several years. Any appropriations provided in the bill would help rebuild Hawaii's fragile safety net for its most vulnerable populations.

The bill addresses the following essential services for individuals with DD and their families:

1. Page 1, Section 2, lines 15-18 and Page 2, lines 1-2: Department of Health Respite Program (\$114,467)  
**The Council asks for your consideration in amending the amount of the appropriation from \$114,467 to \$200,000. Funding is shared by the Adult Mental Health Division, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, DD Division and Family Health Services Division. The funds provide respite care services to families providing home care to a family member who is 1) an infant or toddler from birth to three years of age with a developmental delay; 2) an adult with serious mental illness; 3) a child with serious emotional disabilities; 4) a child with a serious or terminal illness; and 5) an adult or child with DD, and provides support services and training to families and caregivers.**

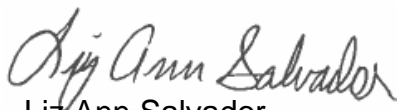


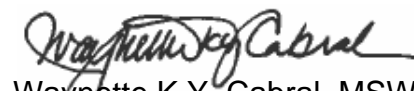
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Page 2  
April 3, 2012

2. Page 3, Section 6, lines 5-10: Aging and Disability Resource Center (\$1.4m)
3. Page 3, Section 7, lines 11-16: DOH DD Medicaid Waiver Program (\$1.5m)  
The funding will be maximized with federal match funds at 50.48% (federal) and 49.52% (state). DD Division currently serves 2,800 individuals with intellectual and/or DD (I/DD) in the Waiver program that provides adult day health, personal assistance, respite, skilled nursing, training and consultation, transportation, etc.
4. Page 4, Section 9, lines 1-6: Long-Term Adult Supports and Resources Program. (\$150,000) This program is administered by the DD Division to provide individualized supports to people with I/DD to live in the community. This program is for individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid or any other federally-reimbursed services.
5. Page 6, Section 16, lines 7-17: Children's Oral Health Services (\$300,000)
6. Page 8, Section 23, lines 13-18: Preschool Development Screening Program (\$436,596)
7. Page 14, Section 42, lines 14-21, and Page 15, lines 1-4: Adult dental care provided at Federally Qualified Health Centers (\$1.9m)
8. Page 15, Section 43, lines 5-11: University of Hawaii Maui Community College Adult Dental Care Program (\$100,000)
9. Page 18, Section 52, lines 7-14: Statewide Independent Living Services (\$450,000)
10. Page 24, Section 66, lines 6-14: Advocacy services provided to individuals with DD and mental illness through the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (\$165,000)

The Council appreciates the Legislature's ongoing support for individuals with I/DD and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 304 HD1 Proposed SD1.**

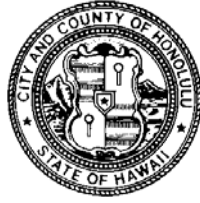
Sincerely,

  
Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792



PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR

SAMUEL E. H. MOKU  
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Community Services

**MEASURE:**

H.B. 304, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to State Finances.

**COMMITTEE(S):**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**HEARING DATE:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**COMMITTEE REQUESTS 1 COPIES**

**TESTIFIER(S):** Samuel E.H. Moku, Director  
(Written testimony only. For more information, please call  
Elizabeth Bethea, Elderly Affairs Division, at 768-7708.)

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Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Community Services strongly supports this bill.

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) of the Department of Community Services is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. As the Aging and Disability Resource Center for Honolulu county, EAD provides information and referrals; linkages to essential services; assistance with applications for benefits; and case management support to seniors, persons of any age with any kind of disability, and caregivers.

This bill includes appropriations for the following safety net programs that are essential to maintain the health and welfare of our most vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities:

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) The ADRC serves as the *single entry point* into the long term care system for seniors, persons of any age with any type of disability, and caregivers, who receive information, referrals, assistance in applying for benefits, and personalized linkages to services. The ADRC streamlines the process of acquiring support necessary to age in place in one's home and community, and acts as a diversion from expensive institutional care.

Kupuna Care The Kupuna Care program includes essential services that support the needs of the increasing population of frail elderly residents in Hawaii who cannot live at home without adequate help from family or formal services. The Kupuna Care program includes services such as attendant care, case management, chore, home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care, and transportation. Since 1999, this program has demonstrated increasing success in providing affordable home- and community-based services that enable seniors to age in place in their homes, thus saving the State the burden of supporting institutional long-term care for an exploding population of seniors.

Healthy Aging Partnership Program Through the Healthy Aging Partnership, EAD implements Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence-based program that provides education, training, and support groups to persons with chronic conditions to assist them in managing their own care. EnhanceFitness is an evidence-based exercise program that focuses on maintaining strength, flexibility, and balance to maintain health and function of older adults. Similar evidence-based self-management programs have also been introduced for arthritis and diabetes. The results of these programs have been overwhelmingly positive. As a diversion from costly institutional care, these prevention and health maintenance programs bring the State significant cost savings.

Senior Centers Multi-purpose senior centers coordinate and integrate services for older adults, such as congregate meals, community education, health screening, exercise and health promotion programs, and transportation. The socialization and recreation opportunities offered by senior centers are crucial in keeping seniors active and engaged, one of the most effective ways of preventing or delaying loneliness, isolation, depression, and related declines in mental and physical health. Healthy Aging programs and Senior Centers act in a preventive and health maintenance manner to stabilize and ultimately improve the health and well-being of seniors, enhancing their ability to remain in their own home and community, and saving the State costly medical, hospital, and institutional care costs.

We strongly support funding for these programs, and we respectfully ask that this bill be passed.

# Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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*AFT Hawaii Retirees  
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UPW Retirees  
ADA/Hawaii  
Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition  
Kupuna Education Center*

(Submitted by email to: [WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov). March 31, 2012)

Testimony of Al Hamai on HD304, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Finances

## **Hearing Of Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**April 3, 2012, 8:30 a.m. Conference Room 211**

Chair David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani and Members of the Committee,

HARA concurs with the purpose of this bill, which “Is to appropriate moneys to support programs essential to education pubic health, and public welfare and begin to repair the decimated safety net.”

We are very pleased that your Committee has included the following which are legislative priorities for HARA on behalf of seniors:

One, the \$4.8 million for Kupuna Care, included in Section 5 of the proposed SD1. But we urge the Committee to add an additional \$4.2 million to strengthen the safety net for seniors in need of assistance by serving 1,254-3,398 individuals depending on level of impairment;

Two, the \$1.4 million for ADRC, included in Section 6 of proposed SD1;

Three, the \$426,722 for Healthy Aging Partnership included in Section 12 of proposed SD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill. Mahalo and Aloha.



From: Anne Biedel

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Support HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing in support of funding for the Read Aloud America program. In my medical practice and as a volunteer in the program I have seen the positive response from children and their parents when they get to participate in this experience. Children blossom when they become readers and often parents who never really had the opportunity to read a book to their kids become actively involved as well. Please consider keeping this important basic foundation of education for our children alive and thriving.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Biedel, MD  
Maui Medical Group  
Lahaina



**VOLUNTEER LEGAL**  
SERVICES HAWAII

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To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

From: L. Dew Kaneshiro, Executive Director  
Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii

Re: Testimony on H.B. 304, SD 1  
Relating to State Finances

Hearing: April 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for providing Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii (“Volunteer Legal”) with this opportunity to testify on H.B. 304, SD 1, Relating to State Finances. We respectfully urge this Committee to appropriate the proposed funds to the Judiciary so that it can expend said funds to Volunteer Legal. The expenditure will enable Volunteer Legal to continue, as it has for the past 30 years, providing legal services to the indigent, the working poor, the homeless and other vulnerable groups throughout the State of Hawai’i.

The services to be provided by Volunteer Legal under Section 63 of H.B. 304, S.D. 1 relate to the provision of legal services by Hawaii licensed attorneys who are recruited by Volunteer Legal’s small staff and who agree to provide an exceptionally wide range of civil legal services *free of charge*. Through a variety of services, individuals walking through Volunteer Legal’s doors experience the difference between regaining their health and suffering from acute or chronic but untreated illness, securing a job and unemployment, shelter and homelessness, feeding themselves and feeding their children, safety and continued exposure to domestic abuse, economic survival and destitution, and financial stability and bankruptcy. All of this is accomplished through a service delivery model that provides legal assistance of the highest quality at a far lower, overall cost, when compared with other service models.

During the past year, Volunteer Legal has been forced to reduce its operations significantly. It has half the staff it had before, some of whom are working reduced hours, with all experiencing cuts in pay. Unquestionably, hundreds of individuals and families needing legal assistance have been turned away or have not been able to access the full range of services that Volunteer Legal has provided in the past. Most will never receive the help they need, as Volunteer Legal is frequently the legal service provider of last resort.

Memo to Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From L. Dew Kaneshiro, Executive Director,

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii

Re: H.B. 304, S.D.1, Relating to State Finances

Hearing Date: April 3, 2012 at 8:30 am

Page 2

The requested expenditure will help Volunteer Legal to maintain the barest minimum level of staffing, ensure continuity of the current level of services, and will complement fundraising efforts by an aggressive campaign in the community to secure Volunteer Legal's, and most importantly, its thousands of clients', futures.

We respectfully ask for your support of the proposed expenditure in favor of Volunteer Legal set forth in Section H.B. 304, S.D.1.

Thank you.



## LĀNA`I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142  
Lāna`i City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-6919 x114  
Fax: 808-565-9111  
dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

*The Community is our Patient -- men, women, children, uninsured, insured!*

Testimony of Lana`i Community Health Center  
submitted by Diana V. Shaw, Executive Director

**Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**April 2, 2012, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In Opposition to House Bill 304, HD1, SD1 (AS WRITTEN)**

This testimony is submitted in opposition to House Bill 304, HD1, SD 1, as currently written, by Lana`i Community Health Center ("LCHC"). We thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LCHC is Hawaii's smallest federally qualified health center. It provides essential safety net services to residents of Lana`i. Section 42 of proposed SD1 seeks to provide funds for adult dental care furnished by federally qualified health centers such as LCHC. However, as currently drafted, the bill provides funding only for dental care provided at federally qualified health centers. LCHC provides dental care under an arrangement with a community dentist at the dentist's office because LCHC is too small to operate an on-site dental clinic. Accordingly, pursuant to the literal language of the proposed bill, LCHC is ineligible for any funding for adult dental services. In order for LCHC's patients to receive subsidized dental care pursuant to the bill as currently drafted, it would be necessary for them to travel to one of the larger federally qualified health centers on Oahu, Maui or Molokai obtain dental treatment at one of their on-site dental clinics.

LCHC is confident that the legislature does not intend to deny LCHC eligibility for funding for adult dental care services simply because LCHC makes those services available off-site, at the office of the dentist who is under contract with LCHC to provide dental care for the centers' patients. Therefore, LCHC requests that the proposed bill be amended to provide that the appropriated funds shall be used for "adult dental care provided [at] or reimbursed by federally qualified health centers" We believe that this amendment will make LCHC eligible for the dental care funds on an equitable basis with other federally qualified health centers in Hawaii.

Thank you for your support of the state's federally qualified health centers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D.V. Shaw".

*E Ola nō Lāna`i*

**LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA`I**

From: E Hayelin

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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Good morning and ALOHA from Hawaii,

I knew the importance and benefit of this program long before that 'Cindy Lou Who' moment when a 3 yr. old who initially missed her mom terribly as we were separating (so the parents can be read to as well, teaching or reminding them of the joy it brings) tugged at my jeans below the knee at the evening's close. I will never my whole life forget looking down at her smiling face, then across into her mom's as well. Please vote as if it were your child or grandchild that could possibly lose this. We always say how 'our children are our future.' This wonderful program is proof we really believe those words. Promoting reading really will save the country money in the long run I'm sure

by helping to form better, healthier habits and stronger family and community ties.

Thank you for your time and the for the valuable work done.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Havelin

ps. Last night I attended another Read Aloud reader's personal presentation at a local library in celebration of black history month. Encouraging reading is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

**From:** Elizabeth Poole/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
**Subject:** HB304, HD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to address the overwhelming need to continue funding the RAP (Read Aloud Program) in Hawaii, and especially on Maui.

As a professional practicing clinician of over 40 years, I have observed the decline in children's ability to stay focused and interested in schoolwork and reading in particular. It is my opinion that this is due largely in part to the line we have crossed as a society by allowing children to spend countless hours playing video games and watching TV. It is rare nowadays to find a child who will tell you that reading is a passion that they love. Instead, I am told that their favorite thing to do is to play violent and destructive video games endlessly. Many children share with me that they often have a TV in their room, and when they believe their parents are sleeping, they play far into the night. The following day, they are cranky, tired, and often disruptive to other classmates. Learning in a classroom does not lend itself to the instant gratification of a video game, and without explosions and death, it is certainly less interesting to them.

RAP is a program that offers a workable solution/alternative to helping children discover a world outside of the constructed and, quite frankly, dismal and awful world of video games. Reading a book can take anyone on a journey to a distant land, a new opportunity, an adventure, a shared experience that one can learn from or gather strength and courage, and, of course, can inspire a child to reach out beyond their current situation and achieve something that is worthwhile and that could be a contribution to society. Most of my video gamers highest aspiration is to work at McDonald's so they can either become a rock star, an athletic star, or just to be able to purchase another video game. To me, that is the saddest comment on society today.

With Hawaii's reading scores being some of the lowest in the nation, it only makes sense to support and enhance ANY reading program that will instill a life long love and passion for reading. Here on Maui, at our school (Kihei Elementary) we are blessed to have the RAP program that is being "hosted" by Timothy Shim, a dynamic, spirited Maui born son who is exciting the children to read, read, read!! Parents that we have not seen all year are coming in droves with their children AFTER school to participate. This is establishing a sense of community for these families who are broken and dispirited, trying to make ends meet and raise their children in a hostile environment. Even during a heavy downpour recently (it NEVER rains in Kihei), we had a HUGE turnout! Children who miss a session will cry to me the following day that they did not get to come. Obviously, it is making an impact that we cannot measure "quantitatively," but that we KNOW is planting the seed for future success.

To NOT fund RAP would be a travesty for all concerned, but most of all for the future of Maui and Hawaii. These children are our FUTURE. If we do not care that they are more interested in a score from a game on a hand held device, then by all means, pull the funds for continuing this program. If, as we claim, we are about caring for our Keiki, then we MUST make sure that this program is not only funded, but funded in a way that more schools can access the benefits that come from participation.

It takes a village to raise a child. Kihei Elementary is that village here on Maui. Please, don't let us flap in the wind. Support us in supporting our children and their families, by instilling in them the passion that comes from reading a good book, and then another, and then another.

Mahalo for your consideration.  
Malama ko aloha.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth W. Poole, .MA, Children's Mental Health Professional  
School Based Behavioral Health Specialist IV  
Kihei Elementary School  
Maui, HI.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

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### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 304, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair, Partners In Care (PIC)

**Hearing: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 a.m.; CR 211**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members, Committees on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB304. I am Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair for Partners In Care (PIC). Our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. PIC strongly supports the intent of HB304, as it relates to appropriating funding to support public welfare programs, which will provide viable solutions as agencies across Oahu address the growing crisis of homelessness in our communities.

Partners In Care understands how critical it is for the State to address both the prevention of homelessness and strategies to move families more rapidly from homelessness into permanent housing solutions. This bill is pivotal as a tool to prevent homelessness, and in utilizing the strategy of providing shallow subsidies to house homeless families in existing housing while new affordable rentals are being built.

Partners In Care agencies receive hundreds of calls (respectively) each month from individuals and families seeking assistance as they struggle to maintain the housing they have. Federal funds that have assisted at risk families to avoid homelessness are coming to and end. Funding for homeless prevention would provide critical short-term assistance to help families obtain or retain housing before they become homeless, which is critical in lessening the wave of individuals and families with children from falling into homelessness.

In transitional shelters, homeless families work hard to change their lives, learn and practice good budgeting skills, obtain employment, and prioritize the ability to pay rent—but they still cannot *afford market rents*. For many, public housing has seemed to be the only option. Providing an allocation to create *shallow rent subsidies* would provide a new and critical option to more rapidly move and sustain these families in permanent housing solutions. A shallow rent subsidy (maximum of \$300 per month) would enable 400 to 500 sheltered homeless families move into permanent housing in the community, utilizing existing rentals, HB304 will be an integral component in making this vision a reality.

PIC supports an **additional \$2,000,000** to be appropriated to the Department of Human Services' Homeless Programs Office, for homeless prevention statewide (HB304, HD1, SD1, Section 54).

PIC supports an **additional \$1,500,000** to be appropriated to the Department of Human Services' Homeless Programs Office, for the creation of a shallow rent subsidy program to assist homeless families and individuals who are ready to rent, with ongoing rental assistance in order to more rapidly move them onto permanent housing (HB304, HD1, SD1, Section 55).

The total funding requested for the Department of Human Services, Homeless Programs Office, is \$3,500,000, an amount which will make a considerably positive impact in the lives of unsheltered homeless and at risk families, who are most vulnerable and in need of assistance.

Partners In Care urges your support for HB304 and its multiple strategies to end homelessness in our State.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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*Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.*

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www.childandfamilyservice.org



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Testimony by Howard S. Garval, President & CEO on HB 304 Relating to State Finances, Senate Ways and Means Committee, April 3, 2012, 9:30 a.m., Room 211, State Capitol

Chair Senator David Ige and Vice-Chair Senator Michelle Kidani and Committee Members:

I am Howard Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service. This testimony is in strong support for HB 304 that restores certain Child Welfare funds that were cut effective November 30, 2011. These funds supported certain critical services to children and families who are either in the child welfare system or are at risk of entering the system. I believe these funds totaling **\$446,000** are for services that will ultimately pay for themselves in preventing costs associated with foster care, group homes, child abuse and neglect, homelessness and even potential placement in the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). Let me take a moment to describe these services that were eliminated in the DHS cuts that were made to various child welfare programs effective November 30, 2011.

**Permanency Support Services-Oahu** is a program that serves families in which there is a risk that the adoption could disrupt. This program was eliminated in the above mentioned cuts. However, without this program, one young person in a family where the adoption disrupts who ends up placed in a CAMHD (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division under the Department of Health) group home would pay for the contract. (The annual contract amount was **\$160,389** and the annual cost of for one youth in a CAMHD group home is **\$157,048**. More than one disruption would add foster care, group home or higher costs than the total contract amount.) This seems “penny wise and pound foolish”.

**Family Centers-Kauai**-These neighborhood-based programs are designed to prevent child abuse by providing for basic human needs services for families (such as food pantries), parenting education, budgeting, and case management services that all can strengthen the family and lower the risk of child abuse/neglect. Without these services families could end up in the Child Welfare system at higher cost to the state. If we prevent **5** children from entering the Child Welfare system, we prevent costs of foster care and other child abuse/neglect services (**\$37,724 x 5=\$188,620** vs. annual contract amount of **\$151,391**).

We may also prevent homelessness for a family which is estimated to cost the state over **\$20,000** a year per family. **7** or **8** families we help to prevent homelessness would pay for the cost of the contract. (The annual contract amount was **\$151,391** and annual state costs for homelessness are **\$21,265** per family x **8** families=**\$170,120**).

**Substance Abuse Counseling Services-Maui**-This program supports recovering parents who are clean and sober and are working on reunification with their children. Without this program, reunification efforts might be delayed leading to increased costs of prolonged foster care placement for the children. Also, if relapse occurs for either parent, the reunification plan would be put on hold thus prolonging foster care placement for the children. Not only is this a worse outcome emotionally for the children who have no sense of permanency, but it drives up the costs through longer foster care placements. If we can reunify just **4** children, the contract would pay for itself. (**\$133,810** annual contract amount vs. annual estimated child abuse/neglect related costs including foster care of **\$37,724 x 4 children=\$150,896**).

*Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children*

Cont'd...

It makes absolute sense to restore these contracts that easily can pay for themselves in reduced costs or cost avoidance within the Child Welfare system.

Another important item in this bill is funding from the Judiciary for domestic violence intervention services to perpetrators and victims. When the Rainy Day Funds run out by 6-30-12, such services will have to be reduced without funds to replace the Rainy Day Funds that will be fully spent. This will result in reduced services to perpetrators and victims and will jeopardize the safety of women and children who are victims of domestic violence. With fewer services available or longer waiting lists for services, the risk of domestic violence will increase and less service will be provided to protect women and children who are victims. We are pleased to see the DHS budget add at least \$ 1.5 million for the domestic abuse shelters, but this will only keep the shelters open but still will not support adequate services to the women and children in the shelters. That is why there are additional funds proposed in HB 304 to enable the shelters not only to keep their doors open but to provide more than just the bare minimum of a roof over their heads and food and safety. The additional funds proposed for shelters in HB 304 would allow for more staff coverage in the shelters rather than the one person working for what could be as many as 41 women and children at any one time. These funds would allow for counseling services and not just a roof over their heads, food, and safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on such an important matter that relates to protecting children and victims of domestic violence.

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Jed Gaines, President, Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 531-1985

RE: HB304, HD1

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30AM

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As President of Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support . HB304, HD1

***Read Aloud America is a Hawaii program that has been providing services to low income families and Title I public schools in Hawaii for more than a dozen years, and has served the needs of more than a quarter of a million parents and children here.***

By strengthening students' at-home support system while bridging the gap between school and the home, RAP can help prevent students from making negative academic and social choices later in life simply by focusing on reading with family.

The simplicity of this concept actually fulfills a critical need. Research shows that children who attend high-quality programs after school hours are more likely to make better grades and behave better in school, spend less time watching TV, make better social choices growing up and have lower incidences of drug use, gang involvement, and teenage pregnancy (U.S. Departments of Education and Justice 2000).

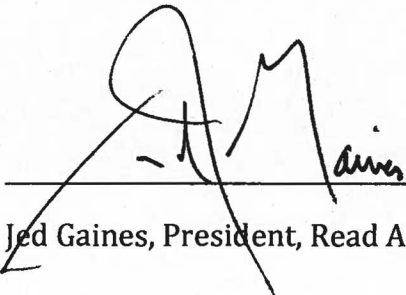
***Specific results from RAP show that families watch less TV and spend more time together; parents are more involved in their children's learning; and students have an increased interest in reading and a more positive attitude toward school.***

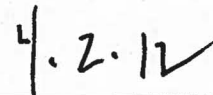
Reading is the keystone of education. Students who are competent and engaged readers do well in all areas of the curriculum. Students who are not competent readers struggle in the primary grades, begin a "slide out" around third grade, lose ground in all academic areas as they advance through the grades, and eventually lose interest in school, often falling prey to the perceived security of gangs and drugs. Students who don't achieve success in school are more likely to drop out, not find employment as adults, and wind up on welfare rolls, drug rehabilitation programs, or jail. 70- 82% of prison inmates are school dropouts (Trelease 2009).

To that end, Read Aloud America offers tools for school communities to not only strengthen the connection between school and the home, but also to provide a safe and fun family activity during after-school hours. RAP supports education by helping parents learn how to incorporate educational - and fun - activities into the home. It promotes making healthy choices, such as reducing dependence on electronic media, engaging in more quality family time, and creating a reading-friendly home environment. As a result, students have a greater possibility for success in school - and in life.

In Hawaii where more than 93% of all parents work while trying to raise healthy families, providing a low cost but very effective program to help them create firm communication skills is vital. That it also often starts a lifelong love affair with reading and learning more about the world around us, is a wonderful bonus.

On behalf of the many schools, and the thousands of parents and children we serve, we respectfully ask for your kokua in supporting HB304, HD1.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jed Gaines, President, Read Aloud America, Inc.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date






The Children's Alliance  
OF HAWAII, INC.

April 2, 2012

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani., Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Joan Naguwa, President  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. 

SUBJ: **Testimony in Support of HB 304, H.D.1, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to State Finances**  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
Time: 8:30 am  
Place: Conference Room 211

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Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Joan Naguwa, President/Executive Director of The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. We are in **strong support of HB 304, HD1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to State Finances.**

The mission of The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. (CAH) is to provide care and support for sexually abused children, offering hope for the future. CAH serves nearly 600 children and youth and their families each year. CAH is an integral part of the statewide system of services for sexually abused children and youth. Our programs include: 1) Enhancements – providing needed goods and services for child victims, child witnesses and their siblings, residing in foster care or at home on Oahu and Kauai that enhance their ability to regain a sense of normalcy and increase self-esteem; 2) HEART (Healing Emotions with Art and Recreation Together) – an ongoing experiential program for sexually abused children and adolescents to increase their self esteem and decrease feelings of isolation; 3) Ho`omaka – enabling child victims to strengthen their resiliency by working with adult mentors and developing skills in goal-setting, problem-solving, healthy relationship-building, and independent living; and 4) Strengthening Parents – parent and caregiver support groups to manage their own emotions about sexual abuse to their children and increasing their parenting skills. Our programs are not a substitute for primary therapy, but rather, are unique, effective long term, wrap around services in support of their individual and/or traditional group therapy. Based on evidence-based best practices, CAH provides the long term support services needed to help these children to effectively manage their trauma while also dealing with normal child and adolescent developmental stages, and to achieve a successful transition into adulthood. Over 90% of our clients increase their self-esteem, self-efficacy and ability to successfully transition into adulthood.

The need for access to CAH services for sexually abused children is significant as over 300 reported cases are handled by the Dept. of Human Services each year. To add to this figure, national statistics demonstrate that there are hundreds more cases of child sexual abuse that are unreported. If left untreated, victims of child sexual abuse often experience serious social problems, such as substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness, poor academic

achievement, and criminal behaviors. For example, experts agree that sexually abused children are four (4) times more likely than non-sexually abused youth to have delinquent or criminal behaviors leading to incarceration. Statistics from the State Dept. of Public Safety confirm this fact at a greater financial burden for the State and the community.

The appropriation of \$150,000 for CAH's services, as outlined in Section 57 of HB 304, HD1, Proposed S.D. 1, is critically needed to continue to meet the long term needs of these vulnerable children and assist them to become productive citizens of Hawaii. We fully recognize Hawaii's very difficult economic situation and the serious challenges faced by the Hawaii State Legislature. However, without this appropriation, CAH will significantly reduce or eliminate its programs and services, creating a strong likelihood for these children to engage in harmful behaviors at a greater cost to the State of Hawaii.

We strongly urge for your support of HB 304, HD1, Proposed SD1, Relating to State Finances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Joanne Laird, Program Director, Read Aloud America  
[joannelaird@readaloudamerica.org](mailto:joannelaird@readaloudamerica.org)  
808-757-0981

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

As Program Director for Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304.

One year ago the Hawaii family literacy program, Read Aloud America (RAP), was preparing to present programs in twelve public schools on three islands. Four of the programs were gearing up on Maui at Haiku, Makawao, Pomaika'i and Waihe'e Schools. At those four Maui schools alone we served 10,688 faculty, students, parents and community members with evenings of learning about the joy and power of reading. Yes, reading! On April 1, 2011 we were part of the 41 local nonprofits who lost funding as a result of the Department of Human Services' need to "keep intact job training and welfare programs". The cancellation of the contract with DHS resulted in a loss of 95 percent of funding for the RAP Programs across the state. Due to the drastic budget cuts last spring we were forced to reduce Fall Semester programs to only four schools on two islands – but even those four schools drew a cumulative attendance of almost 10,000. Today, RAP has only enough funding left to present two programs – one on Oahu at Waipahu Elementary and one on Maui, at Kihei Elementary School.

In his State of the Union address last year, Present Barack Obama said: "The question is whether all of us—as citizens and as parents—are willing to do what's necessary to give every child the chance to succeed. That responsibility begins not only in our classrooms, but in our homes and communities. It's the family that first instills the love of learning in a child." The RAP program has been doing something about this for the past 12 years. Parents are a child's first and lasting teachers. Think about it: A child spends 900 hours in school and 7800 hours outside school (educator/author Jim Trelease, 2007). If we are going to make positive changes in education, we have to extend the goals of the classroom into the home. RAP's mission is to build communities of lifetime readers. RAP was founded to inspire families to read, but it does much more. It strengthens bonds between parents and children and opens channels of communication between schools and homes. Whole families participate. They share an evening of fun and fulfillment that is increasingly rare. Where else can a family go to have fun together for free? And, by the way,

learn about books, get tips about reading and learning together, and reinforce shared values?

You might have noticed the “Bring RAP Back” banners on school fences around Oahu and Maui. We implore the governor and the Legislature to keep in mind that future generations need your support now. It seems obvious that funding can be found for such a proactive program that helps to change the attitudes and values of the parents of our future generations.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Daryl Selman, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center  
- Kona Unit

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 30, 2012

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 304 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 304 HD1 SD1 Relating to State Finances.

Our testimony focuses on the section of the bill that provides funding for training on bullying prevention.

At the 2011 Children and Youth Summit, bullying was the top priority for legislative action identified by the 125 participating youth and youth advocates. It received nearly 3 times as many votes as the second priority issue.

The proposed training takes a multi-faceted approach that emphasizes creating a school climate that encourages safety and respect. Dr. Karen Umemoto and her colleagues have conducted this training for several years at Farrington High School, with reduced violence and bullying on campus as a result. She conducted a training workshop for Hawaii Youth Services Network last fall. Our post-training evaluations showed that participants had acquired practical skills that they planned to apply with youth. We filled the entire workshop in less than a week and turned away more than enough people to fill another workshop, an indicator of how much youth workers and educators want and need training on bullying prevention..

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

From: Kim Spencer/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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I am writing to let you know that you need to continue your RAP program. I work at Kihei and I volunteer helping teachers prep for this program. Our kids LOVE RAP. The reason I support this program is its not only a reading program its a community program. It has brought together our community. We have students from other schools come with uncles Auntie's moms dads grandparents cousins etc. This program benefits every one. PTA cant do what these guys are doing. They need to keep it going. KIDS LOVE RAP....Kimmer Spencer

\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lkenolio@cfs-hawaii.org](mailto:lkenolio@cfs-hawaii.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB304 on 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 02, 2012 7:40:11 AM

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Testimony for WAM 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM HB304

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lacie Y. Kenolio  
Organization: Child & Family Service  
E-mail: [lkenolio@cfs-hawaii.org](mailto:lkenolio@cfs-hawaii.org)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

I work for the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, I am really in support of this bill for funds in this very important area...

From: [Lisa Peterson/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Lisa_Peterson/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us)

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Re: Support HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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Read Aloud America is a fabulous program. I can speak as a teacher in a school participating as well as a parent. Both my students and my own children so look forward to each activity - and getting a child excited about reading is not always an easy task. I love that the program is great for all levels of readers, as well as all age groups. It's an activity that we can all attend as a family and all my children, ages 4-10, come home with so much excitement about what they read, heard, learned. The adult sessions have been great for my husband as well - he is spending more time reading with our children and sharing his love for books that he had forgotten about and has had the opportunity to rediscover. The Read Aloud Program has helped our family to come together in more ways than just reading - it set us down a path where family time is fun and cherished rather than thought of as boring. As a teacher I love that RAP has promoted parent involvement - while it is often overlooked, positive parent/family involvement in a student's life has a HUGE impact in their academic performance. It's the children who know that they family's value education and reading and learning that take school seriously and growing to love and appreciate learning for themselves. The benefits of Read Aloud America are so great - I only wish that all families could participate. I certainly look forward to participating in the future, both as a parent and a teacher.

Thank You,  
Lisa Peterson  
Teacher, Kihei Elementary

\*\*\*\*\*

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## HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

### THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

#### Committee on Ways and Means Testimony in Support of H.B. 304, Proposed SD1 Relating to State Finances

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 211

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is in strong support of this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate monies from the general fund to a number of entities, including state departments and several non-profit agencies, to maintain levels of support for the public health, safety and welfare.

We support the bill and especially appreciate the inclusion of a specific line item to the Hawaii Disability Rights Center at **Section 66**. The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is the state designated protection and advocacy system. We have been designated by the Governor of Hawaii in Executive Orders No. 77-3, 82-4, 89-2 and 94-06 to provide advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, in accordance with various federal laws. See 42 U.S.C. § 15001, 42 U.S.C. § 10801, and 29 U.S.C. § 732. Hawaii law, at Section 333F -8.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, expressly recognizes the obligation of the state to provide advocacy services to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in order to receive federal funds. The federal statutes require, as a condition of funding services provided by a number of state agencies, that a protection and advocacy agency be established by the State.

In 1977, state funding for our agency represented approximately 75% of the agency's revenue and federal funding represented the rest. By 1995, the federal share had grown to approximately 70% and the state's share had declined to 30%. The reduction of the State's share reflected an increase in the number of federal programs and was not



questioned, despite the fact that under federal law, federal funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant the state's efforts. In requesting federal funding for various state projects, every Governor has provided assurances to the federal government that federal funds distributed to HDRC do not supplant funds that are available from state and local sources.

From 2004 until 2010, the state gave HDRC at least \$165,505 each year under a purchase of services contract with the Office of Community Services of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. In July 2010, OCS informed us that the contract would not be renewed because the Hawaii Legislature had reduced funds for OCS programs by \$700,000. OCS subsequently terminated funding for four programs totaling \$699,000. To our understanding, OCS also administratively restricted their budget by an amount significantly greater than the \$700,000 cut by the Legislature, thereby reducing HDRC's funding to zero. While there may have been no intent on the part of the legislature to end State funding for protection and advocacy services, that is what has happened.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is a small, efficient agency that serves thousands of individuals each year with legal issues surrounding their various disabilities. We effectively utilize our resources and keep our administrative costs to a minimum. However, federal funding has been flat for several years and we are currently faced with the likelihood of an additional reduction of one hundred thousand dollars, while expenses have continued to increase. Fundraising opportunities for a legal services corporation like ours are very limited, and they would force us to compete with other legal services providers for the same donors. Thus, without the state funds we had received for thirty-four years, we have been forced to substantially reduce our activities, cut staffing, and provide fewer services to the most needy, vulnerable population in our state at a time when their needs are increasing.

While we had hoped that the new administration would restore our funding in the base budget for OCS, that has apparently not occurred so far. Therefore, an appropriation as set forth in this measure would seem to be an appropriate mechanism to continue the vital functions we perform until a more stable, permanent source of state funding can be arranged.

We are also in particular support of **Section 8** which appropriates 7.5 million dollars to the Adult Mental Health Division.

Our agency has had a lot of concerns regarding changes in services and programs of the Adult Mental Health Division over the past several years. There has been reduction after reduction in services provided to individuals with mental illnesses. That included the elimination of services such as the ACT teams and the drastic reduction in the number of case management hours. In the larger picture, it is clear to us that ever since the Department of Health was deemed to be relieved from the provisions of the Consent Decree in the case brought by the Department of Justice, (USA v. State of Hawaii, Civil No. 91-00137) there has been a constant "backsliding" in the effort by the state to comply with the terms of the Decree.

In many respects, the final blow, so to speak, occurred in July, 2009, when the Department of Health unilaterally eliminated several psychiatric diagnoses as qualifying for eligibility for services. These diagnoses had been developed as part of the consent decree and were an Attachment to the Plan for Community Mental Health. As a result of the Department's internal action, diagnoses of anxiety disorders and personality disorders were eliminated as diagnoses which qualify an individual to receive AMHD services. This has resulted in some seriously mentally ill individuals not being able to obtain any assistance for their mental health needs.

We understand that the Lingle Administration reduced the budget for the Adult Mental Health Division by approximately 25- 30 million dollars. It was not the legislature that cut their budget or created the current situation and we hope that the legislature will appropriate these funds so that, at a minimum, some services can be restored to more people. It is important to note that the reduction in expenditures for AMHD did not in fact save money. There is data which demonstrates that psychiatric hospital admissions have increased as have the number of individuals with mental illness in prison facilities. In reality, the lack of expenditures by AMHD merely shifted that illusory cost saving to the higher priced, more expensive budgets of other departments or agencies. We would think that the legislature, which has a broader perspective that cuts across all state departments would see that this measure is actually one which will be protective of health and public safety as well as cost effective. We therefore urge the passage of this section as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

From: Matthew Gurewitsch  
To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
Subject: Support HB304, HD1  
Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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Aloha, Honorable Members of the Committee!

I am writing in support of Read Aloud America, for which I am proud to volunteer. It is vital program that deserves not only to continue but also to expand. In a time of tight money, this is one that creates a space for parents and children to share quality time together, with valuable social and academic benefits. Compared to these benefits, the costs are minimal, thanks to the large network of volunteers dedicated to making it work.

Shortly after relocating to Maui a year ago, I read about the program and was instantly motivated to become part of it. What happens is really very simple. In the late afternoon, parents and schoolchildren meet in the cafeteria of a local school. The kids assemble by grade level, and go off to a classroom, where a volunteer reader reads aloud to them. The books are contemporary young-people's classics, carefully chosen for their appeal to the particular age level. (A big favorite right now is *The Hunger Games*.) While the kids are listening in their classrooms, parents are read to in the cafeteria. After the reading, parents and their kids reassemble for a pizza supper and prizes.

I attached a statement and comprehensive description from Jed Gaines, president of Read Aloud America, who gives a quantitative summary of the social and academic benefits of the program to the low-income families and Title I public schools in Hawaii it serves. The program has been in place for more than a dozen years, and has served the needs of more than a quarter of a million parents and children here.

Much mahalo for your consideration. Over on the Valley Isle, we are crossing our fingers for favorable action.

*m.*

Matthew Gurewitsch  
3415 Kuaua Place  
Kihei, Maui HI 96753

t/+1 (808) 874-8925  
fx/+1 (212) 656-1647

on the web: [beyondcriticism.com](http://beyondcriticism.com)  
on twitter: [mg1228](https://twitter.com/mg1228)



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 95 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawai'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I spend four days a week here. I share many activities which I find helpful for me. We share nice lunches from noon which makes it all too easy for me. At my age, friends and association are the most important things —*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Natsuko Horuchi

Address:

Honolulu  
City

96819  
Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 73 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*Study lot for old people  
and more ~~so~~ enjoying*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Yasuko Takeuchi

Address:

City

Zip Code

Kailua, Hi 96734



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 84 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*It keeps me active, healthy, & Mentally*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Karen M. Takemoto

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Zip Code

Hon. HI 96819



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 74 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

WITH THE CHILDREN ALL GONE THIS CENTER  
GIVES ME SOCIAL INTERACTION AS WELL AS AVAIL  
TO MY DISPOSAL A MULTITUDE OF SERVICES!

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

DONALD GABRIEL

Address:

City

Zip Code

Hon H. 96819





TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 67 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*Maintain social activities in a safe environment;  
Continue community awareness and contact with  
our leaders; Exercise physically and mentally;  
Improve health and well fare of the elderly.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Elouise K. Frank

Address: Hon. \_\_\_\_\_ 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 81 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I consider the center as my second home, a place to learn with many programs available to participate, I especially enjoy the exercise classes. We seniors are fortunate to have a place like LMPSC where we can socialize, help each other and be mentally alert and active. We need the center!*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Elaine J Kim

Address: Honolulu, HI 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,  
Relating to State Finances

I am 71 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*Keeps me feeling healthy, alert, & happy. This is a place where the environment is very lovely, and activities to participate is very good for everyone.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

*Jean Sugihara*

Name:

*Jean Sugihara*

Address:

*San Jose* *96817*  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 72 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

1. My 95 year old mom is the happiest here and as her care giver, I love to see her happy.
2. This is my support group.
3. I'm happy to participate in the many activities offered here.

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Mary Sueda

Address:

Aiea

City

96701

Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 85 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*Without this center seniors won't have anywhere to go. Please help funding for our sake.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Doris D. Nagamori

Address: Honolulu 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 83 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I do my exercise to stay healthy  
I try to remember so I don't  
get alzheimer,*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*Jane Ayako Yamashiro*

Address:

*Mililani*  
City

Zip Code

*96789*



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 83 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I keep healthy with the exercises, I've learned a lot abt. nutrition and different crafts. I enjoy the fellowships*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Gwen K. Perry

Address:

HONOLULU

96819



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 80 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*It's been wonderful being here. Keep's my mind in function - good to be among people here. I've been here about 11 yrs. + am glad to be part of this Senior Center.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Helen Palama

Address:

City

96817  
Zip Code





TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 89 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

THIS IS WHERE I HAVE CHANCE TO ACQUAINT MYSELF WITH OLD FAMILIAR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS TO SPEND MY WANNING YEARS.

SO..... PLEASE HELP TO SUPPORT OUR CENTER

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

TAKEJIRO HIGA

Address:

Honolulu  
City

96817  
Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 88 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I am learning the culture of my parents as well as  
fellowshipping with friends new and old. I enjoy  
the programs each week, making me feel young  
in heart.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Tomie Ige

Address:

City

Hon 96802

Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 84 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I am thankful to have a center that we can come to. To keep active.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Emiko Yoshida

Address: Honolulu  
City

96817  
Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 81 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

To keep us seniors to be in health, and associates with rest of seniors. We can enjoy doing lots of activities. Keep our mind alert and young.

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*Lillian Y. Ige*

Address:

*Hono Kula 96819-2906*



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 81 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

The center served as a respite for me since my husband was an only child and we cared for my father-in-law who lived until 96 years old. My mother in law had dementia which made her incapable of caring for him so we had to care for both of them. Now I am able to enjoy myself by singing Karaoke, meeting friends, etc.

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Kyoko T. Sekiya

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Hon. 96817 Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 88 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

I support this bill and urge your support to provide **FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS**, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii i.

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*This is a very good center to  
come, we see and do all good seniors  
in the center.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Ellen K. Kahalehoe

Address:

City

96813  
Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 68 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii`i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I get to socialize, take exercise classes, Ukulele & hula which I never had the opportunity to do while I was employed. Classes are doing the day and gets me out of the house instead of being a couch potato & watch TV.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*Gay Phelan*

Address:

*Honolulu HI 96817*

City

Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 92 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*We have some place to go & enjoy & learn & laugh.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Elsie M. Teruya

Address:

Honolulu  
City

96817  
Zip Code





TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 88 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

I come on Mon. + Wed. for much needed exercise class, also on Monday I go to the Japanese club. On Wed. w/ kulele class under Moana + Janet  
Thursday I attend the Okinawa class + enjoy watching the different dances.  
with these activities

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Ruby J. Higa

Address:

Honolulu 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 85 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*I come to the center five DAYS A WEEK, BECAUSE I  
enjoy the company of other ~~people~~ PERSONS my AGE.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: J. KUKA LEE

Address: WAIMANALO 96795  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 87 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

I GOT SOMETHING TO  
KEEP ME ACTIVE

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: ROY MAGANNINE

Address: Hual. Hi, 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 85 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*There's a place to go to meet my friends.  
Also take lesson - taisho-koto, which I enjoy.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Mildred M. Iiga

Address:

Honolulu

City

96813

Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 84 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:** *I enjoy  
The Entertainment at the center & the  
exercise*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*V.T. Kamigama*  
Vernon T. Kamigama

Address:

Honolulu HI 96817  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 91 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii`i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

To meet ~~my~~  
friend

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Nancy S. Ichikawa

Address:

City

Zip Code

Hon. HI 96813



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 94 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii`i.**

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*My days at the center keeps me very active and also reminds me of not neglecting my personal appearance,  
my morning routine is very punctual — don't be late for the program! Thank you for everything.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely, *Nobue Akashi*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City

Zip Code

*Honolulu, HI 96817*



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 75 years old and participate in the many activities at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

I support this bill and urge your support to provide **FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS**, especially Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii'i.

**Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because:**

*It has helped me learn about my culture and provides valuable information to update seniors on legislation and community affairs that affect us. It also provides opportunities for regular fellowship & activities.*

**Please make Senior Center funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely, Irene Yamashita

Name: Irene Yamashita

Address: Hon. HI 96817

City

Zip Code





**LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY OF HAWAII**

Telephone: (808) 536-4302 • Fax: (808) 527-8088  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 37375 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96837-0375  
924 Bethel Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Calvin Pang, Esq.  
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.  
Executive Director

**COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF  
PROPOSED HB304 SD1 - RELATING TO STATE FINANCES**

April 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits comments in support of Proposed HB304 SD1 – Relating to State Finances, specifically in support of Section 63.

In November 2007, the Access to Justice Hui released a report that included, “The 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People in Hawai‘i.” This Assessment found that one out of every five low- and moderate-income Hawai‘i residents were unable to receive needed legal assistance. The Assessment also found the capacity of legal services providers was limited to helping only one in three Hawai‘i residents who needed assistance. The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (Legal Aid) is the only legal service provider with offices on every island in the state, and in 2011 provided legal assistance to over 10,000 Hawai‘i residents in the areas of consumer fraud, public assistance, family law, the prevention of homelessness, employment, protection from domestic violence, and immigration.

While the legislature passed significant legislation last year to increase funding for legal services through an increase in the indigent legal assistance surcharge, full benefit from this legislation will not occur until FY16, leaving a gap in funding for the organization. The end of Stimulus funding, reductions by Congress to LSC funding, and the lowest federal funds interest rates which affect funding from Interest on Lawyer Trust Account, have compounded the financial need for Legal Aid. Realizing the seriousness of this potential crisis, Legal Aid is currently taking steps to reassess its service delivery and is engaging in a strategic planning effort to determine the level of services that can be provided to the community with limited funding. Failure to receive this funding will result in the severe reduction of services, possible office closures, and staff layoffs. We already are unable to serve all those who request assistance and often get complaints that we should do more, without this funding, even more members of the public who call us for assistance will not be helped.

We understand that all programs are having a difficult time right now, yet our services are critical to keeping a roof over someone’s head, a child with her mother who was beaten by her father, a person who’s lost their job get access to public assistance, and a family facing foreclosure assistance in renegotiating a loan to stay in their home. In light of all of these considerations, we ask for an allocation of \$800,000 for the next fiscal year to allow us to continue to provide some of the services that we have over the years and ensure that critical immigration legal services also continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina  
Executive Director

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rannw@mac.com](mailto:rannw@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB304 on 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 02, 2012 8:13:59 AM

---

Testimony for WAM 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM HB304

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rann Watumull  
Organization: Child & Family Services  
E-mail: [rannw@mac.com](mailto:rannw@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

As a Board member of Child and Family Services, I am writing to support this Bill as it:

- 1-Restores all three child welfare contracts that were terminated effective November 30, 2011 including the Family Centers on Kauai, Permanency Support Services on Oahu, and Substance Abuse Counseling Services on Maui.
- 2-Restores funding reductions we received effective November 30, 2011 in our Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services contracts on Maui, Kauai and Oahu
- 3-Has funds for Kupuna Care in case SB 2320 does not get passed by the House Finance Committee or dies somewhere else along the way
- 4-Has funds for Domestic Violence Intervention Services from the Judiciary for the court ordered counseling for male perpetrators and victims. These funds would replace the Rainy Day Funds that run out by 6-30-12
- 5-Has funds for Domestic Violence Shelters in addition to what the Department of Human Services has put in its budget for FY '13.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rann Watumull

From: Renee Romerdahl/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

To: WAM Testimony

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Support HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a first grade teacher at Kihei Elementary who has actively participated in the Read Aloud America program at our school during two separate school years, I can testify to the worthiness of this excellent program. I always encourage my students and families to attend, as I have found this program to be highly motivating in encouraging families to read together at home. This program helps by strengthening students' at-home support system simply by focusing on reading with family. Specific results from RAP show that families watch less TV and spend more time together; parents are more involved in their children's learning; and students have an increased interest in reading and a more positive attitude toward school. Reading is the keystone of education. Students who are competent and engaged readers do well in all areas of the curriculum.

Read Aloud America offers tools for school communities to not only strengthen the connection between school and the home, but also to provide a safe and fun family activity during after-school hours. RAP supports education by helping parents learn how to incorporate educational – and fun – activities into the home. It promotes making healthy choices, such as reducing dependence on electronic media, engaging in more quality family time, and creating a reading-friendly home environment. As a result, students have a greater possibility for success in school – and in life.

Parents, students and teachers are all very enthusiastic about this program. Parents are especially appreciate and provide us with lots of positive feedback regarding the program. The students are also actively engaged and are so disappointed if they have to miss a session. The Read Aloud America program is such an important program, it needs funding in order to continue to reach out into our communities and help families develop lifelong habits of reading.

I was so disappointed to learn that funding had been cut for the Read Aloud America program. No longer have they been able to bring this program to all the schools that so desperately need this program. Reading is an essential lifetime skill that needs to be promoted and supported. The Read Aloud Program promotes reading and supports reading in the home. It shows parents how to change a child's reading attitude and how to help develop their children's reading skills simply by reading together as a family. I can personally testify, from years of experience, the value of reading at home and how it greatly impacts a child's academic performance at school. Reading at home is so important! The RAP program provides an excellent means for promoting reading at home and encourages and develops good reading habits within the home. Please provide funding to support this outstanding program here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Renee Romerdahl  
Kihei Elementary  
First Grade Teacher

\*\*\*\*\*

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For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

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# Susannah Wesley Community Center

1117 Kaili Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Adele Lum  
**Vice President**  
William Domingo\*  
**Secretary**  
Barbara Okamoto\*  
**Treasurer**  
Dennis K. Tanimoto\*

April 2, 2012

**TO:** Senator David Ige, Chair  
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

**FROM:** Ronald Higashi, Executive Director  
Susannah Wesley Community Center

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Building and Grounds**  
Brenda Lowrey

**Program**  
Meripa Godinet, PhD

**Resource Development**  
Lily Bloom Domingo+

**SUBJECT:** Support of HB 304 SD1 Proposed, Sec. 39, the inclusion of an appropriation to Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) for Youth Services Programs

## DIRECTORS

Mercedes Bali  
Rev Tom Choi  
Alison Colby  
Senator Suzanne Chun  
Oakland  
Jamesner Dumloa  
Jan Harada  
Marisa Castuera Hayase  
David Gibson  
Kara Mark  
Kilikina Mahi  
Leola Nisa  
Alfredo Lagaso  
Representative John Mizuno  
Lynn Owan  
Carolyn Steuer

\*Former President  
+Volunteer

**Executive Director**  
Ronald M. Higashi

**Clinical Administrator**  
Dominic K. Inocelda

**Youth Service Center  
Program Administrator**  
Carol S. Imanaka

**Administrative Services  
Director**  
Nelson K. L.

My name is Ronald Higashi. I am the Executive Director of Susannah Wesley Community Center. The request before you is a collaborative effort of SWCC, Parent and Children Together, and the Kalihi Branch of the YMCAs of Honolulu. Susannah Wesley has been agreed to be the lead agency for the collaboration.

Combined, the three agencies have over 200 years of being a vital part of the Kalihi community. Susannah Wesley Community Center itself has been providing services to youth and families in the Kalihi community for over a century.

The focus of this program is on providing a continuum of youth focused services to the Kalihi community which include community based afterschool programs for children and teens, outreach and case management services, alternative education, and positive skill building.

These services are critical to our Kalihi community. Kalihi Palama is a "High Risk" community. This is highlighted by a study done by the University of Hawaii Center of the Family which ranked the Farrington Complex as the second highest risk community among 43 communities in the state.

All three agencies have facilities in the community in which the youth live. All three agencies also provide services during non-traditional hours such as nights, weekends, and summer. The funding for these services will go far in providing a "safe and nurturing place" to congregate and provide the positive setting for our youth to grow. Adult supervision provides the necessary positive role models. These are best practices as identified by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

As the economy recovers, it is my hope that funding for these services be yet again available to us so that we can again to provide the necessary resources to the youth and families of our community.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

1117 Kaili Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3432 • (808) 847-1535 • FAX (808) 847-0787  
[www.susannahwesley.org](http://www.susannahwesley.org)

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 95 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

DR APPOINTMENTS  
EXCURSIONS

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

MAKE MY APPOINTMENTS  
GO SHOPPING

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Judie Murray

Address:

1798 Koiwai St. WAHIANUA 96786  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 82 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I am handicapped  
I could not live and eat to keep up my  
quality of life.*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Could not go to the doctor  
grocery shop.  
I appreciate all that you provided for  
me with your wonderful services*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Nora Pussen

91-147 Muihala St # 1208

Address: Ewa Beach 96706

City

Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 70 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I need ~~to~~ to be able to ~~go~~ shop for  
grocery  
Ⓢ soon I will need help with Dr. visits*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Have the quality of life that  
St. Francis Vista has already  
Ⓢ provided me*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Medy Buno Balonzo  
97-1771 Milua St # 6104  
Address: Casa Beach  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 76 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I have no car here - sold it in Calif.  
before I moved here. Medical expenses*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*grocery shop - pick up prescriptions  
go to the doctor -*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Barbara Sandby

Address: 91-1741 Mialo # 1106  
City Zip Code  
Ewa Beach 96706



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 77 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:** *I don't drive and don't own a motor vehicle. I have to depend on my daughters who work and the only time they can bring me is on Saturday or Sunday if they have time to take me. Otherwise I have to call taxi. I am not qualified for the Handivan.*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*go shopping for groceries when I need to. I will have to do without! and sometimes its frustrating and depressing.*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely, *Cyralina Tadderan*

Name: *Cyralina Tadderan*

Address: *91-1471 Minala St #2112* *'Ewa Beach 96706*  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 79 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I really count on this - my needs are food etc and can't do without this. Pls, Kokea*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:** *have much to eat. nor get to the doctor.*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Charmaine Bush

Address: 91-1471 Nihoa St. Ewa Beach 96706  
City apt 3106 Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 81 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I have more  
I need to have the assistance of  
of driving and medication*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*stay healthy  
I have multiple major health  
problems*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*h  
no need by!*  
William (Jerry) BRUHN

Address:

910 1471 Milua 960706  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 8 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I don't have car + I need food*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*I don't have food*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*Elisa Giovanniello*

Address:

*91-1471 Miwa St. 3112*

City

Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 77 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I need to sleep for for*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Have and food in my house*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Priscilla Tong

91-1471 Nihoa St., Apt. 3207

Address:

Ewa Beach HI 96706

City

Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 44 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:** doctor visits (Primary Care)  
Eye doctor and diagnostic services.  
Childer all work; need to supply my own needs  
Have no other means of transportation

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

buy Groceries, doctor (Health Issues)  
buy clothes, could not be independent

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Sandra O. Bapp

Address: 91-1471 Mula # 1202 96706  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 88 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

I have no car & do not drive.  
I depend on Transportation to take me to the doctor & go food shopping & other ~~needed~~ necessary things to do.

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

get my food & visit doctors. I walk with a cane & pretty hard to get on the City bus.

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Edith Leggett

Address: Franciscan Vista Ewa #3201  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 84 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

I need to rely  
on my necessary

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

I could not go to  
the need to buy food

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Barbara #4187

Address:

1111 N. Kalia

City

Zip Code

96216



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 76 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:** I have severe arthritic condition of both feet & knees. I was already denied the use of the handi van. I have high blood pressure & even little anxiety makes my blood pressure go up. I truly need the Catholic Charities bus services.

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:** I have no way of going to the grocery store. My daughter & family here in Hawaii. I came from New Jersey, New York as well. I have Osteoarthritis & Osteoporosis that walking especially w/ groceries to carry from the bus stop to my unit would aggravate my legs.  
**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely, *E. Magallanes*

Name: Eufrosina G. Magallanes

Address: 91-1471 Miula St. 96706  
City Unit 5205 Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 67 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

NO CAR  
LITTLE MONEY

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

EAT  
SHOP for ~~NECESSARY~~ ITEMS

PAY Someone to get gas for me  
~~prevent~~ depression

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Judy Crane  
91-1471 miula st # 4210

Address:

EWA Beach 96706  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 88 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*NO ONE TO HELP ME (UNRELIABLE)*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*GO DOCTOR APPTS.*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

GILORIA LADAO

Address:

WAILUA

City

96791

Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 77 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*Meal/ride*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Staying Home*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Alejandra URSUA

Address: 1042 EHO EHO AVE 968123  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am ~~84~~ years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*Dr apoppo i h e -*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Dot I cannot dot*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: *Dennis E. Welton*

Address: *22 Koaio Pl Wahiawa 96786*  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,  
Relating to State Finances

I am 96 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*come to meal site*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Stay home*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: DOROTHY UEMOTO

Address: 94-476 PAPOLOHIWA MILILANI  
City Zip Code

*96789*

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 91 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I NEED TRANSPORTATION TO DOCTOR  
I DRIVE LOCALLY ONLY*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*COME HAVE MEALS AT HALLE KONA  
GO SHOPPING OR MARKETING*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

*Kew H. Kawaino*

Address:

*1810 GLEN AVE ~~96786~~*

City

*WAHIAWA*

Zip Code

*96786*

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 86 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*need transportation for meal rtr*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*I stay home + watch TV*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Massee Honda

Address: 95-713 Laha, St 96789  
City Zip Code



TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 65 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

I'm not currently driving. Using Catholic Charities van for transportation to shop; I have some problem with hip & knee, so it's not easy to get around when I need to.

**IF I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

also, I try to shop when items are on sale, + in bulk, so I don't have to shop as often w/o the van, this would not be easy or convenient for me. Mahalo!

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Linda Chew

Address:

520 Pine St, #301, Wahiawa, HI 96786  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 82 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*Cost will be very far*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*go shopping or to see my doctor*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Mildred Togan

Address: 60 Pine St. KAH 96786  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 77 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*I cannot walk very far with being out of breath.*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Go shopping  
go to my doctors at Straub on King St*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name: Deana M. Hojokuni

Address: 520 Pine St. #213 - Waiheawe Hi 96786  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,  
Relating to State Finances

I am 76 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

I can't walk - well I use a cane, &  
I can't use ~~see~~ bus because I can't bend  
my right knee.

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

Go shopping. Go to the doctor, for anything  
else - like pick-up medicine.

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Gloria Pulido

Address:

500 Pine St., Wahiawa, 96786  
City Zip Code

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1,**  
**Relating to State Finances**

I am 97 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through Kupuna Care funding.

**I support this bill and urge your support to provide MORE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, like Transportation**

**I need TRANSPORTATION because:**

*This service help me  
in many way -  
I thank you*

**If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION, I could NOT:**

*Go out at all*

**Please make more Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Name:

June N. Beachen

Address:

520 Pine St. Kalaheo 96786  
City Zip Code



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Stella M.Q. Wong  
Vice President of Programs

DATE of Hearing: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 (8:30 a.m., Rm. 211)

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT of HB 304, HD1, Proposed SD1,  
Relating to State Finances**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means, my name is Stella Wong and I am the Vice President of Programs at Catholic Charities Hawai'i. I am testifying **in strong support of HB304, HD1, Proposed SD1, Relating to State Finances.**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i.

Emergency and Budget Reserve funding was approved by the 2010 Legislature and released by Governor Abercrombie to ensure that the safety net of services would be able to serve the growing numbers of people at risk. As of June 30, 2012, these services are at risk of significant reduction or elimination. The negative impact to our community is tremendous.

The economic situation in our state continues to struggle – we continue to have more people coming to our doors needing food, shelter, jobs and other basics of life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to have to turn away families with young children, frail elders and individuals with disabilities.

Please help maintain programs to protect the most vulnerable in this State. In particular, CCH supports the following:

### **SENIOR CENTERS:**

A network of senior centers on Oahu provide vital health education and screenings, fitness, recreation, case management, and other services to enable thousands of senior citizens to maintain wellness, support independence and avoid costly institutionalization and have a history of state funding.

Catholic Charities Hawaii has operated the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center since 1981. Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is a State owned facility that was built as a model senior



center for the State of Hawaii in 1969. The Center provides a range of educational, recreational and social services that include:

- Exercise and Educational activities, such as Stretch & Tone and Basic English.
- Recreational courses, such as Ukulele and Sewing.
- Sponsorship of 7 ethnic clubs that perpetuate ethnic traditions and promote cultural sharing.
- Health promotion and screening activities, such as monthly blood pressure checks, health fairs, and more.
- Special events for education and recreation purposes, such as Candidates’ Fair.
- Onsite access to professional counseling and case management services –available to Center members and their caregivers to aid in the transition from independence to interdependence.
- Opportunities for hundreds older adults to contribute their time and skills to the community thousands of hours of volunteer service annually.

The Center serves senior citizens, age 60 and older. By contract, it serves seniors living in the geographic area bounded by census tracts 38-66 (Kakaako - Nuuanu/Punchbowl – Downtown - Liliha/Kapalama - Kalihi/Palama - Kalihi Valley - Moanalua). Its priority is to serve those in greatest economic and social need, with an emphasis on serving low-income, minority elders. Seniors who live outside the contracted geographic area and lack access to comparable services due to language, etc. are also served.

We ask that an **additional \$175,000** be appropriated to the Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging, to supplement the existing State funding for **Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center** that is distributed to the C&C of Honolulu, Elderly Affairs Division and contracted to Catholic Charities Hawaii through the RFP process.

<b>Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
Moiliili Community Center for Moiliili Senior Center	\$50,000
Waikiki Community Center	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL SENIOR CENTER FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>

**KUPUNA CARE:**

Catholic Charities Hawai`i is also the current provider of Kupuna Care transportation services. Currently, Act 191 (Emergency and Budget Reserve funding) provided funds that make it possible for Catholic Charities Hawai`i to provide an additional 6,000+ trips for seniors to access health, nutrition and other services this fiscal year. Additional funding through SB 2320, SD1, will assure that seniors will continue to receive access to the services they need that support their ability to remain independent in the community.

Catholic Charities Hawai`i asks for your support of an **additional \$4.2M** be appropriated to the Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging, to supplement the existing State funding that

is distributed to the County offices on aging and contracted to **various aging provider agencies** through the RFP process.

<b>KUPUNA CARE FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$4, 200,000</b>
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### **SAFE AND SOUND FUNDING**

Catholic Charities Hawaii Safe and Sound Program needs additional State funding to continue to meet the need of children who have experienced intra-familial sex abuse and their families who fall into the “gap group” that do not qualify for other services who live on Oahu and to expand these services on the Big Island of Hawaii where virtually no services are available.

We ask that an **additional \$150,000** be appropriated to the Judiciary, Children’s Justice Center, to supplement the existing State funding that is contracted to **Catholic Charities Hawaii for the Safe and Sound Program** via the Judiciary, Children’s Justice Center, through the RFP process.

<b>CCH SAFE &amp; SOUND PROGRAM FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
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### **SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS**

Catholic Charities Hawaii is very concerned about the growing crisis of homelessness in our communities. It is critical for the State to address both the prevention of homelessness and new strategies to move families more rapidly from homelessness into permanent housing. This bill is important to prevent homelessness as well as to create a new strategy of shallow subsidies to house homeless families in existing housing while new affordable rentals are being built.

Catholic Charities Hawai‘i gets hundreds of calls each month for help with housing. Neighborhoods are being flooded with more homeless persons. Federal funds that have assisted at risk families to avoid homelessness are ending. Funding for homeless prevention would provide critical short-term assistance to help families obtain or retain housing before they become homeless. We must lessen the wave of people falling into homelessness.

In transitional shelters, homeless families work hard to change their lives, practice good budgeting, get a job and are ready to pay rent—but they still cannot afford market rents. For many, public housing has seemed to be the only option. Providing an allocation to create shallow **rent subsidies** would provide a new and critical option to more rapidly move and sustain these families in permanent housing. A shallow rent subsidy (maximum of \$300/month) would enable 400-500 sheltered homeless families to move onto permanent housing in the community, utilizing existing rentals.

We ask that an **additional \$2,000,000** be appropriated to the Department of Human Services/ Homeless Programs Office, for homeless prevention statewide.



We also ask that an **additional \$1,500,000** be appropriated to the Department of Human Services/ Homeless Programs Office, for the creation of a shallow rent subsidy program to assist homeless families and individuals who are ready to rent, with ongoing rental assistance in order to more rapidly move them onto permanent housing.

<b>HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>SHALLOW SUBSIDY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS PROGRAM FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

Please help maintain programs to protect the most vulnerable in this State. I strongly urge your committee to **pass HB304, HD1, Proposed SD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4888 or [swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if I can provide any further information.

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Wayne M. Tanna, esq. Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors  
Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii

Re: Testimony on H.B. 304, SD 1

Relating to State Finances  
Hearing: April 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("Volunteer Legal") on H.B. 304, SD 1, Relating to State Finances. As a practicing attorney and an advocate for those who are struggling to make a living and maintain a life, I respectfully urge this Committee to appropriate the proposed funds to the Judiciary so that it can expend said funds to Volunteer Legal. The expenditure will enable Volunteer Legal to continue, as it has for the past 30 years, providing legal services to the indigent, the working poor, the homeless and other vulnerable groups throughout the State of Hawai'i.

The services to be provided by Volunteer Legal under Section 63 of H.B. 304, S.D. 1 relate to the provision of legal services by Hawaii licensed attorneys who are recruited by Volunteer Legal's small staff and who agree to provide an exceptionally wide range of civil legal services *free of charge*. Through a variety of services, individuals walking through Volunteer Legal's doors experience the difference between regaining their health and suffering from acute or chronic but untreated illness, securing a job and unemployment, shelter and homelessness, feeding themselves and feeding their children, safety and continued exposure to domestic abuse, economic survival and destitution, and financial stability and bankruptcy. All of this is accomplished through a service delivery model that provides legal assistance of the highest quality at a far lower, overall cost, when compared with other service models.

During the past year, Volunteer Legal has been forced to reduce its operations significantly. It has half the staff it had before, some of whom are working reduced hours, with all experiencing cuts in pay. Unquestionably, hundreds of individuals and families needing legal assistance have been turned away or have not been able to access the full range of services that Volunteer Legal has provided in the past. Most will never receive the help they need, as Volunteer Legal is frequently the legal service provider of last resort.

The requested expenditure will help Volunteer Legal to maintain the barest minimum level of staffing, ensure continuity of the current level of services, and will complement fundraising efforts by an aggressive campaign in the community to secure Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's, and most importantly, its thousands of clients', futures.

We respectfully ask for your **support** of the proposed expenditure in favor of Volunteer Legal set forth in Section H.B. 304, S.D.1.

Thank you.

April 1, 2012

Testimony to:           Committee on Ways and Means  
                              Senator David Ige, Chair  
                              Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
                              Members of the Committee

Presented by:           Stephanie Ackerman  
                              Board member of Child & Family Service

Measure:                HB304 HD1  
Title:                    Relating to State Finances

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Stephanie Ackerman, a member of the community and also a member of the board of Child & Family Service (CFS). CFS is Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on every island. I am testifying in strong support of HB304 HD1 as it will restore Child Welfare funds that were cut effective November 30, 2011.

The programs impacted by the elimination of the child welfare funds included:

**Permanency Support Services (on Oahu)** is a program that serves families when there is a risk that an adoption might disrupt thereby preventing the child from ending up in foster care or in a state funded group home.

**Family Centers (on Kauai)** is a program that serves at-risk families to prevent child abuse and neglect and also to provide food and clothing to families living on the edge of homelessness.

**Substance Abuse Counseling Services (on Maui)** is a program focused on parenting skills for those individuals who have gone through substance rehabilitation and gotten clean and sober, and are striving to get reunified with their children who are currently in the foster care system.

It makes absolute sense to restore the funding for these programs that easily can pay for themselves in reduced costs or cost avoidance within the child welfare system as well as provide the vital services for Hawaii's children at risk.

CFS's mission is strengthening families from keiki to kupuna. As a board member of CFS, I urge you to pass HB304 HD1. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## Susannah Wesley Community Center

1117 Kaili Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Comments from Youth at Susannah Wesley Community Center to Support HB 304 SD1 Proposed

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: A sampling of Youth Participants of Susannah Wesley Community Center

DATE: April 2, 2012

RE: In Support of HB304 SD1 Proposed, Sec. 39, Making an Appropriation to Susannah Wesley Community Center

Tristan, age 13- I like it here because I like playing basket ball and I hope to join their Late Night Team. I come here because I can meet up with friends who don't go to same school as me. If Susannah Wesley was not here, I would just go home and sleep.

Ethan, age 11- Susannah's is a place that feels safe with the building and the staff always looking out for the little kids.

Jun Jun, age 10- I get homework helps and do lots of stuff. We play all kine games, pool, I have practiced shooting baskets, I get to sit and draw with contests.

Hershel, age 12- Here I learn and work on reading and math, it's getting more easy. Easy.

Arleth, age 16- I started coming here after school for activities its better than just hang out on the streets of Kalihi. Susannah Wesley helps me in school, I gain leadership skills. Without the center I would probably be hanging out with bad people, staying out late you know being a bad teenager.

Melvin, age 15- The center is a place to chill and hangout. I can also meet up with friends and do homework. If SWCC was not here I would just cruse.

Jann, age 12- If I were not here I would do what I use to. I went to school's program but there I have to pick one thing to do. I cannot just relax, like here I get to do more.

Francis, age 12- Problems I see in Kalihi are fights. But at Susannah's all the workers make us follow rules. They keep us happy and stop us all from fighting. All problems are solved.

D.J., age 11- I come here because I have fun with good activities and homework time, there are pool tables, and I play basket ball. There is a basket ball team....I learned from practice to dribble more better and communicate with your team.

Delfin, age 8-I learned to not say bad words, be respectful, responsible, safe....here I get to make new friends with activities and games with prizes and food. I learn more things, read, drawl, and use computers.

Jerald, age 8- If Susannah wasn't here I would be bored and could fight.

Daniel, age 10- If Susannah's wasn't here I don't know what I would do. I liking coming to be with friends and get help from workers on my homework. I get to spend time in the gym learning sports and playing Sham Battle.

Kyle, age 11- I don't go home afterschool because most times no one is there because they have a lot jobs. But I come to the center and get help with work, and get to hang out with friends.

Daizha, age 15- Problems I see in the community are fights, and stealing. But Susannah's helps me stay out of trouble, instead you do your work, participate in activities, volunteer and help others.



**Read Aloud America**

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1  
01/26/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): Alma Liva Zip Code: 96797  
Phone: (808) 676-4543 Email: alma.liva@yahoo.com

Please take a few moments to write a question for next session and comment on today's session - Mahalo!  
 Please share my comments with my legislators and other community leaders.

This is the special night for my kids. Because I've never have been<sup>in</sup> this kind of fun before in my whole life. This is my ~~daughter's~~<sup>daughter's</sup> first time in R.A.P. And she have lots of fun, and she says, "This is great!" I think kids gain more knowledge than doing classwork. I like the activities, and the way RAP make ~~the~~ it. In my island, they don't have this kind of program, but thank ~~god~~ I let my daughter attend it. Thank you very much being here for my daughter and others.

**From:** Christine Wolfrum/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
**Subject:** HB304, HD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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Although it is 3:20 and I am still at school planning, creating assessment for the new Common Core standards, filling out POs for field trips, and coloring beans for a Math lesson tomorrow, emailing this testimony is too important to pass up.

RAP coming to Wailuku Elementary School has had a profound influence on children's perception of reading and the community involvement. It truly has brought families together. Being a large school that serves a highly disadvantaged and ELL population, RAP is one way that students can get books into their house, and be read to. It has increased the usage of our public library and has been a great way for students to bond with each other and their families. The energy and smiles on RAP night abound.

Losing out on RAP would be a huge blow to one of the few highly attended functions at our school and would drastically impact morale and general excitement about reading that RAP has fostered.

Please do not take it away. Please understand if there are not as many responses from our school it does not mean that our teachers and families do not care, it is that it is difficult to juggle everything and find time in the day to write extra emails.

Teachers love RAP. Parents love RAP. Most importantly, the CHILDREN LOVE RAP. Please do not take this away from our students.

Sincerely,  
Christine Wolfrum  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Wailuku Elementary School  
Wailuku, HI

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This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service contracted by the Hawaii Dept of Education.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

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**From:** Cynthia Kay  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
**Subject:** HB304, HD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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**Re: Read Aloud America**

**I am writing because I have been a reader for Read Aloud America and must share what a great program this is.**

**I saw it in the children's eyes and observed how it bonded the kids with their parents and how the kids learned to appreciate books.**

**I believe that as adults, we are responsible to show children how the world works and by spending time with them reading we are giving them the gift of time and knowledge.**

**We need more of this!**

**Cindy Kay**

**Wailea , Hi.**



From: [drrobert\\_santry@lifesuccess-adventures.com](mailto:drrobert_santry@lifesuccess-adventures.com)

To: WAM Testimony

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Support HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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As a volunteer reader I am pleased and honored to offer a testimonial on the positive contributions Real Aloud America makes to our children, to our parents, and to our educational system. The program gets results meaning the activity encourages gatherings of parents and children, children enjoying the joy of reading, and the positive impact on the host school. Parents return to reading to their children. Families reduce the amount of television consumed daily and focus on traditional activities such as reading, conversations, and games.

Please support this program with your vote, your voice, and our money.  
Give our children and parents the opportunity to fall in love with reading.

**WE INSPIRE WINNERS!**

Robert M. Santry, M.D., D.Min., Ph.D.  
Makawao, Hawaii 96768 USA  
808-276-0835

**From:** ed corbett  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
**Subject:** HB304, HD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I became aware of this program 2 years ago as a member of the Kihei Sunrise Rotary Club. Our club was made aware of the fact that Read Aloud America was expanding their program to the Island of Maui and they were seeking volunteers to be readers at their program for the Elementary Keiki of Kihei. Our club quickly realized that this was a fantastic program to enlighten not only the children, but the parents as well as to the benefits of reading for fun and enjoyment.

Our club became heavily involved and provided support to the program and now Rotary members Island wide have supported the RAA as well.

I realize that monies for non profits aren't as available as it was a few years back so the competition for the dollar has become more important to these agencies.

I can't help but believe that RAA should be highly considered for fund allocations this year and for future years.

Mahalo,

*Ed Corbett*  
*Past President 2010-2011*  
*Rotary Club of Kihei Sunrise*  
*Cell: 808 264 3468*  
*Fax: 877 400 0573*  
[efcorbett@yahoo.com](mailto:efcorbett@yahoo.com)

From: [ecsway](#)

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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**Read Aloud America is a Hawaii program that has been providing services to low income families and Title I public schools in Hawaii for more than a dozen years, and has served the needs of more than a quarter of a million parents and children here.**

**By strengthening students' at-home support system while bridging the gap between school and the home, RAP can help prevent students from making negative academic and social choices later in life simply by focusing on reading with family.**

**It is vital to the community that this program be funded.**

**Ellen Sway  
Kihei, Hawai'i**

TO: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Geoff Cassel

RE: Support HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a one time volunteer reader for Read Aloud America, I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1. My experience is that the children and parents who attended this program were infused with enthusiasm and support for the practice of reading aloud every week in the home, and limiting television exposure. These two things alone can greatly enhance the education for these children. Education is a partnership between the schools and the parents and the entire community. Read Aloud America is a community building enterprise that nourishes this partnership.

Read Aloud America is a Hawaii program that has been providing services to low income families and Title I public Schools in Hawaii for more than a dozen years, and has served the needs of more than a quarter of a million parents and children here.

By strengthening students' at-home support system while bridging the gap between school and the home, RAP can help prevent students from making negative academic and social choices later in life simply by focusing on reading with the family.

The simplicity of this concept actually fulfills a critical need. Research shows that children who attend high-quality programs after school hours are more likely to make better grades and behave better in school, spend less time watching TV, make better social choices growing up and have lower incidences of drug use, gang involvement, and teenage pregnancy (U.S. Departments of Education and Justice 2000).

Specific results from RAP show that families watch less TV and spend more time together; parents are more involved in their children's learning; and students have an increased interest in reading and a more positive attitude toward school.

Reading is the keystone of education. Students who are competent and engaged readers do well in all areas of the curriculum. Students who are not competent

readers struggle in the primary grades, begin a “slide out” around third grade, lose ground in all academic areas as they advance through the grades, and eventually lose interest in school, often falling prey to the perceived security of gangs and drugs. Students who don’t achieve success in school are more likely to drop out, not find employment as adults, and wind up on welfare rolls, drug rehabilitation programs, or jail. 70-80% of prison inmates are school dropouts (Trelease 2009).

To that end, Read Aloud America offers tools for school communities to not only strengthen the connection between school and the home, but also to provide a safe and fun family activity during after-school hours. RAP supports education by helping parents learn how to incorporate educational – and fun- activities into the home. It promotes making healthy choices, such as reducing dependence on electronic media, engaging in more quality family time, and creating a reading friendly home environment. As a result, students have a greater possibility for success in school – and in life.

In Hawaii where more than 93% of all parents work while trying to raise healthy families, providing a low cost but very effective program to help them create firm communication skills is vital. That it also often starts a lifelong love affair with reading and learning more about the world around us, is a wonderful bonus.

On behalf of the many schools, and the thousands of parents and children we serve, I respectfully ask your kokua in supporting House Bill HB304, HD1.

Geoff Cassel

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee  
FROM: Halle Maxwell, Principal  
Kihei Elementary School  
DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM, Conference Room 211.  
RE: In support of HB304, HD1

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KIHEI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

250 E. Lipoa St.  
Kihei, HI 96753

**TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION**

**Honorable Members of the Committee:**

**My school community faces many economic challenges. We also have a large population of families who do not have English as their native language. Despite these obstacles, our families make time to attend "RAP nights" and value this time spent together as a family. After each session, I review the comments from parents regarding how RAP has affected them. It is inspirational and touching to see how this program changes their lives for the better! Here are a couple of examples:**

***One mom wrote that she didn't want to attend. She was busy and tired but her children begged her to bring them to RAP. She wrote that she was so happy to have attended and that she was grateful that the presenter made her laugh. She wrote that it has been a really long time since she has laughed.***

***Another parent wrote, "We love this program. This program is the whole reason why my two youngest daughters love to read."***

***A busy parent wrote, "I really enjoy this. It gives me quality time to spend with my kids since I work full time.... I make it a point to schedule these days to get off early just to spend time with my kids."***

***Another parent who has faced many struggles in her life wrote, "My daughter, who is in second grade, looks forward to coming each session. I've just been released from prison after doing 5 years straight and my daughter was just 2 years old. All I did was read. That kept my mind from going insane. Since being out, I've read only one book. Then I came to this RAP program and it's reminded me about the pleasures to the soul of reading. Now I'm reading again on a daily basis. Time is set aside each day, Monday-Sunday, for one hour just for reading. This is done with my husband, myself and our daughter. Again, thank you."***

**When I read comments like these, and the dozens more just like them, I am reminded of the role the school and programs like RAP can play in helping to bring families together, create meaningful memories and foster a life-long love of reading!**

**I have seen first hand how this program changes lives and I implore you to support Senate Bill 2659 so that RAP can continue to positively impact the lives of our children and their families.**

Sincerely,

**Halle Maxwell, Principal  
Kihei Elementary School  
808-875-6818**

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Jean Wayne

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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With aloha I ask you to support this bill. The Read Aloud program creates enthusiastic involvement for both children and parents. What a positive alternative to computer games

Sincerely,  
Jean Wayne

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Kory Strona, Participant/Volunteer for Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 349-8252

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

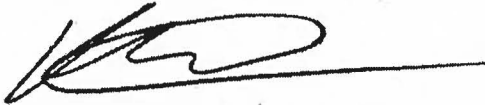
I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1.

As a high school student I began attending the Read Aloud Program with my younger siblings. As I graduated high school and began college I became a volunteer with the Read Aloud Program. I am now a proud father hoping that I can very soon attend these programs with my son. I have been involved with Read Aloud America since the year 2000, and I cannot imagine raising a family any other place than our beautiful island state.

By supporting this bill you will be telling me that you care about what matters most in life for the families in our communities. You will be sending the message that you understand the importance of the family unit, and the invaluable impact it has on our keiki.

I could cite laundry lists of statistics that show you the many ways the Read Aloud Programs benefit us all, however I know that at the end of the day, choices need to be made that will benefit some and not others. To truly make a difference and affect the greatest amount of people, the short term sacrifices are inevitable, but not without great reward.

The people behind Read Aloud America and the families that attend the programs know all too well, that this is too important to give up on. I ask you to please support House Bill HB304, for our future, for our families, and for our keiki.



02/28/2012

Kory Strona, Participant/Volunteer, Read Aloud America, Inc.

Date



From: Lindsay Alexander/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

To: WAM Testimony

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Support HB304, HD1

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of funding for the RAP program. We have had the pleasure of having the program at our school last year and again this year. I really cannot say enough wonderful things about it. One of the main things RAP accomplishes which is such a major component in helping students to be successful is that it gets the parents involved. The families show up for several nights of having great stories read to them as well as the pizza and drinks which are all donated. There is always "buzz" around the school the next day where the kids who attended are talking about what stories were being read as well as what prizes were won (all donated). The program also does a great job of promoting the local libraries and I would be willing to bet that the circulation at the public library near our school goes way up when RAP is happening. I know that the demand and check out rates at our school library go up during RAP. The turnout for the program is absolutely amazing, 100's of people showing up. Definitely lots of bang for the funding bucks. Please, please find the money to help this program keep running.

Lindsay Alexander  
Technology Coordinator  
Wailuku Elementary  
(808)984-5622 x249

live simply, love generously, care deeply and speak kindly

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From: Mary Baker

To: WAM Testimony  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Subject: HB304, HD1  
Funding for READ ALOUD program

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM

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Aloha from Kihei in Maui!

I have and do participate in the READ ALOUD PROGRAM in our Kihei schools. I am a reader for a second grade class. This is an exciting and worthwhile program and works with families to instill the love of reading with the children and parents together in a fun group centered activity. Reading for me has been the window to the world. Television and the computer, while in some instances, especially the computer, have aided the learning curve of education....reading that book, going to the library and having your parents read to you is much more important to further the educational opportunities and thinking of Hawaii and her children. **Do not be responsible for eliminating funding and the opportunities to "open the windows and doors" of learning and reading for our children and leaders of tomorrow.**

Respectfully yours,

MaryMargaret Baker APRN, FNP, MSN  
275 KuliPuu Place  
Kihei, Hawaii 96753  
808-879-9295

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Meredith Russell, Volunteer for Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 579-9073

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a parent, a state of Hawaii juvenile probation officer, and a volunteer reader for Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1.

I know there is significant research to prove that a program such as this one is effective and so important for our children and families. There is so much more benefit to this program than just getting children interested in reading. This program plants seeds, nourishes and enhances a vital component for a foundation that will help build future leaders of our communities.

Reading is fundamental to success in most every other academic area. I have met many teens involved in the court system that cannot read or write and can not properly fill out an employment application. This is very sad and I do not understand how this is still happening.

This program also promotes family involvement, which leads to better communication, healthy interaction and confidence. Confident students who can read and comprehend will lead to less school drop out, less juvenile delinquency and less crime in our communities.

Supporting this Bill is the right thing to do for our Keiki and families. I respectfully request your support.

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Moana Volunteer at Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 280-4479

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a volunteer with Read Aloud America I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1.

I have been volunteering for Read Aloud America for a year and it is an amazing program.

I grew up on Maui, and was home schooled until high school, without a TV and our parents read to me and my sisters all the time as children, and we were and continue to be avid readers. I was lucky to have had reading be an important part of my education and my life, and RAP (Read Aloud Program) brings that to the public schools and the children love it!

Reading is so integral to a child's education, and helps in ways that transcend a classroom setting.

Upon my last reading session to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Kihei Elementary School, when I had finished for the evening the kids were saying, "No, don't stop reading, we love reading!" RAP truly is an amazing program, the kids both love it and need it, and it would be a huge shame if this program ended.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Moana Jenson

Volunteer at Read Aloud America and an avid reader for life

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Patricia Hemmen

Telephone: (808) 214-5549

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a volunteer with Read Aloud America I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1.

By strengthening students' at-home support system while bridging the gap between school and the home, RAP can help prevent students from making negative academic and social choices later in life simply by focusing on reading with family.

The simplicity of this concept actually fulfills a critical need. Research shows that children who attend high-quality programs after school hours are more likely to make better grades and behave better in school, spend less time watching TV, make better social choices growing up and have lower incidences of drug use, gang involvement, and teenage pregnancy.

Specific results from RAP show that families watch less TV and spend more time together; parents are more involved in their children's learning; and students have an increased interest in reading and a more positive attitude toward school.

In Hawaii where more than 93% of all parents work while trying to raise healthy families, providing a low cost but very effective program to help them create firm communication skills is vital. That it also often starts a lifelong love affair with reading and learning more about the world around us, is a wonderful bonus.

On behalf of the many schools, and thousands of parents and children, I respectfully ask for your help.

Patricia Hemmen Volunteer, Read Aloud America.

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Susan Alivado, Principal

Pa'ia School

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM, Conference Room 211

RE: In Support of HB304, HD1

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PA'IA SCHOOL  
955 BALDWIN AVENUE  
PAIA, HI 96779

March 23, 2012

Read Aloud Program  
Jed Gaines

Dear Jed:

Mahalo nui loa to you, Larry and Joanne Laird (and their assistants) and the Read Aloud Program (RAP) for continuing to support schools with your excellent reading program. Pa'ia School was fortunate to have had your program twice.

Your program encourages students to read and it engages and involves the whole family to place reading as a priority and a family focus. In both times, RAP was included as part of our Academic Plan's parent engagement goal, to get entire families supporting the education that occurs here at school. The engagement not only included the immediate family but also extended to relatives and friends who were involved in our children's lives. The program provided modeling to students and to the adults to continue reading in the home setting. The positive comments provided from the adults validated the learning that they rediscovered and stressed how important adults are to their child's success in school.

The first time we had RAP, the enrollment was encouraging with about half of our families initially coming out for this event. The subsequent attendances followed the normal pattern however I still felt we had a good turn out even when competing with the Maui County Fair. When we brought back RAP during the first semester of the 2011 school year, the attendance was unbelievable. The school auditorium was packed to capacity and overflowing out the doors! Parents, grandparents, and after school support clubs were a few of the adults involved in ensuring the students participated. We were at capacity throughout most of the six weeks. Even until the sixth session, we were still enrolling new families.

The students were excited about the book swap, having the parents take them to the library after school or on weekends and especially being read aloud during their individual grade level sessions. The books selected were of a high interest level and you could see the students getting hooked on to reading by the stories that were shared. A couple of the books that stood out for me were the Hunger Games and The Lightening Tree.

I am hopeful that you will be able to continue this program here in Maui, Hawaii. Like the television commercial, some things are priceless; RAP is one of these things. The benefits from the program and the impact it has on the students are immeasurable. Pa'ia School would LOVE to see RAP return again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Alivado".  
Susan Alivado, Principal

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Susan Harper  
Curriculum Coordinator, Makawao School, Makawao, HI 96768  
Telephone: (808) 573-8770

RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill HB304, HD1 which will fund the Read Aloud America program. Makawao School hosted this wonderful program last Spring with resounding success. Our student population was at 480 at that time and during the 6 sessions of RAP that were held, the average attendance per session was 407 people. Of the total student population, 71% attended at least one session. For our small country school these numbers are sensational.

But what speaks even more clearly to the value of RAP is what students and parents shared with us about the experience. I have stacks of letters testifying that the RAP experience helped strengthen a love of reading in the home and brought families closer together. Most families watched less television as a result of RAP sessions, increased the use of our public library and strengthened bonds with the Makawao community.

I urge you to support Read Aloud America and House Bill HB304, HD1. This program touches communities and children in a unique and meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Susan Harper

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee  
FROM: Tara Otomo, Wailuku Elementary School Librarian  
Telephone: (808) 243-5848, ext 311  
RE: HB304, HD1

HEARING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Otomo and I am the librarian at Wailuku Elementary School. I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB304, HD1.

Our school was fortunate enough to be a part of this year's Read Aloud Program. We were treated to six evenings of family, food, fun, and most importantly reading. I believe that in our busy society, we don't get to spend quality time together as families any more. RAP nights allowed parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and children time to be together without the distraction of technology. The evenings began with a snack and an energizer session where small prizes are handed out for answering simple questions about the RAP program and Hawaii. Following this, students were separated into grade level appropriate groups. Parents were grouped together for an information session on what they can do to foster reading in their children. Everyone was read to - parents included. Pizza was served after the reading session was over and the evening was concluded with prize giveaways.

I volunteered to be an escort. This job required me to show the readers to their designated rooms and make sure that the students behaved appropriately. I supervised the 7th and 8th graders and was impressed by their attentiveness and interest in the story. The book selection was awesome and I did not have one behavior problem. I believe that this was the case because the students were genuinely interested in the book and had the desire to know what was coming next. There was also no pressure for students because one of the RAP beliefs is not to have tests, homework, or even questioning.

My experience with RAP has been such a positive one. Doing away with this program would be a disservice to our children and their families.

Tara Otomo  
Librarian  
Wailuku Elementary School

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tmizuno@boh.com](mailto:tmizuno@boh.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB304 on 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 02, 2012 7:20:58 AM

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Testimony for WAM 4/3/2012 8:30:00 AM HB304

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tony Mizuno  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [tmizuno@boh.com](mailto:tmizuno@boh.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:  
I strongly support HB 304.