



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

Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by

Tom Mick

Policy and Planning Department Head, Judiciary

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2659, S.D. 1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Purpose: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports Section 41 of Senate Bill No. 2659, S.D.1 which appropriates funds from the State Emergency and Budget Reserve 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 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 takes no position on Sections 42 through 47 of Senate Bill No. 2659, S.D.1 which appropriates funds from the State Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the Judiciary to the following organizations: Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to provide pro bono legal services for indigent persons, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii to provide general civil legal services, Hawaii Family Law Clinic to provide services to obtain TROs, Catholic Charities Hawai'i to provide intra-familial sexual assault services, Children's Alliance of Hawaii to provide child sex assault services, and Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu for operation of the Weed & Seed Program (**Note: With regard to the Weed and Seed Program (Section 48), Act 191, SLH 2010 appropriated the funding for it more appropriately to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.**) 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. 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 Senate Bill No. 2659, 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
SENATE BILL NO. 2659, S.D. 1

February 29, 2012

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

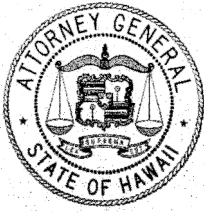
Senate Bill No. 2659, S.D. 1, appropriates unspecified amounts from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain funding levels of various public health, safety, welfare and education programs.

It should be noted that the adjusted balance (adjusted to accommodate all of the transfers authorized by Acts 25 and 62, SLH 2011) in the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund at the end of FY 11 was \$5.5 million. Normally, 15 percent of the tobacco settlement moneys would be allocated to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, as provided by Section 328L-2, HRS; however, Act 124, SLH 2011, amended this section so that the percentage going to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund would, instead, be deposited into the general fund for FYs 12 and 13.

Another Senate Bill, Senate Bill No. 2784, S.D. 1, proposes to recapitalize the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund by appropriating \$20 million from the general fund in FY 12 and \$43.7 million in FY 13. Uncertainty in the economy and in the actualization of revenue collections may make it necessary to delay or reduce the recapitalization during the current biennium.

The Department of Budget and Finance recognizes the importance of maintaining funding levels of public health, safety, welfare and education programs; however, with possibly no or little revenues going into the Emergency and Budget

Reserve Fund for FYs 12 and 13, it would not be fiscally prudent to appropriate funds from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund at this time. If the Legislature does desire to utilize the funds contemplated in Senate Bill No. 2784, S.D. 1, as the source of funds for the appropriation in Senate Bill No. 2659, S.D. 1, it would be better to appropriate funds directly from the general fund rather than executing an appropriation to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund only to subsequently make a (same year) appropriation from that Fund shortly thereafter.



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2659, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 **TIME:** 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY. For more information, please contact Blair Goto, Deputy Attorney General, at 587-3050.

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to make fifty-four appropriations for unspecified amounts for fiscal year 2012-2013 out of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. These appropriations are to support various programs that have been determined to be essential to education, public health, and public welfare, during this time of economic downturn and unforeseen reduction in revenues. The expending agencies are the Department of Health for twenty-one of the appropriations, the Department of Human Services for nineteen appropriations, the Judiciary for seven appropriations, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for two appropriations, the Department of the Attorney General for one appropriation, and the Department of Education for four appropriations.

In section 14 of the bill, on page 7, there is an appropriation to fund the housing first pilot program, "through a collaboration between the Hawaii public housing authority and the department of human services." It is our understanding that the homeless programs branch of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority was transferred to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division of the Department of Human Services by Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010. See also, section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes (requiring the Department of Human Services to implement housing first programs and services). As the Department of Human Services would be working only with itself, we recommend that the following text: " , through a

collaboration between the Hawaii public housing authority and the department of human services,” be deleted on page 7, lines 13-15.

In section 55 of the bill, on pages 24-25, there is an appropriation to the Department of Education with allocations of forty percent of the unspecified appropriation amount to the Department of Education to provide transportation for students to non-school hour programs if the programs are held away from schools, forty percent to the four counties for non-school hour programs, and twenty percent to the Office of Youth Services for an unspecified purpose. To effectuate fully the Legislature’s intent, the purpose of the twenty percent allocation to the Office of Youth Services should be stated expressly.

We respectfully ask that if the Committee intends to pass this bill, the recommended amendments be made.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date: 02/29/2012

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2659,SD1 RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 29, 2012 at 9:15am

by

John Morton

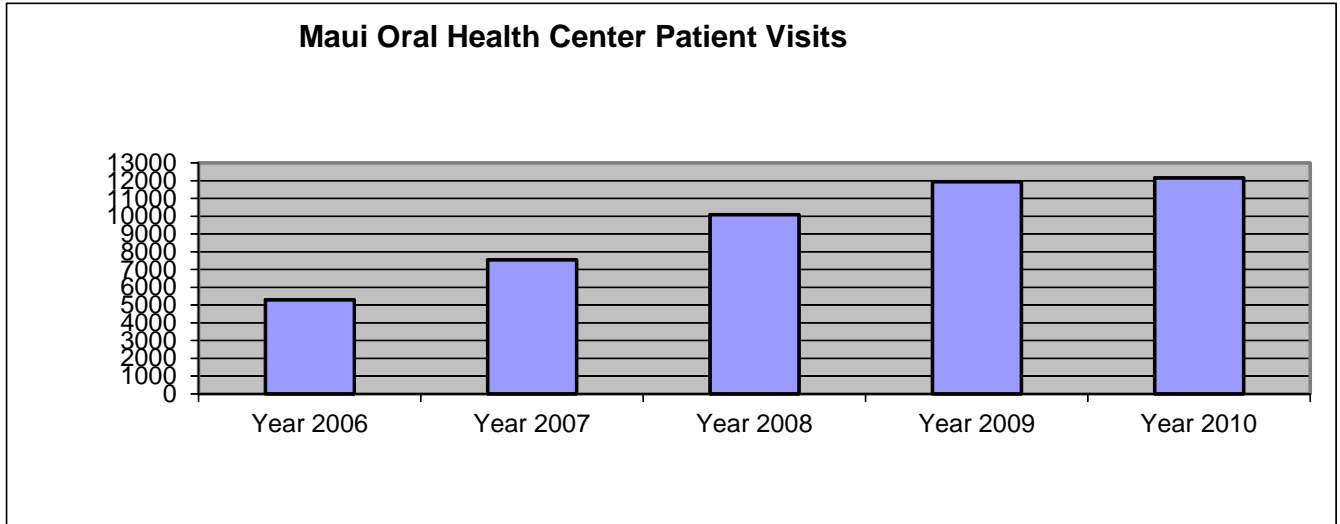
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SB 2659, SD1– RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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

The University of Hawaii supports Senate Bill 2659 SD1 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. The bill includes a line item request to support the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center via funds that will be expended by the Department of Human Services.

With support from the Hawaii Department of Human Services from 2002-2010, the “Rainy Day fund” in 2011, and the County of Maui, we have developed the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center (MOHC). The mission of the MOHC is to provide educational training while servicing the needy with oral care. 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 growth in 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 Hawaii Dental Association for collaborative activities to enhance dental care on Maui and in Hawaii. It is important to note that without access to dental care, patients with acute dental problems 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 Oahu for care. The low number of patients that flew to Oahu from Maui is due to access on Maui at MOHC.

Neighbor Island patients to Oahu 7/1/09-6/30/10

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

The MOHC provides critical oral care to a segment of our community that is needy and underserved, reduces a costly statewide concern and provides meaningful clinical educational experiences for our students.



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

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Halle Maxwell, Principal
Kihei Elementary School
RE: Senate Bill 2659
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kihei Elementary School faculty and families, I would like to encourage you to pass Senate Bill 2659. The Read Aloud America Program (RAP) is a unique opportunity to bring our families together and to encourage literacy. RAP provides a fun and safe environment for parents and their children to learn to love reading!

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
02/27/2012

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 12:15:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2659

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D
Organization:
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:
Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am testifying on behalf of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), the body which advises the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's older citizens. My testimony represents only the views of the Board.

PABEA strongly supports SB 2659, which provides appropriations for many worthy organizations which help meet Hawaii's health, welfare and economic needs. The Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund is designed specifically to meet such needs in times of economic downturn, which Hawaii and the nation have faced for almost four years. PABEA particularly appreciates to inclusion of funding for respite services, Senior Centers, the Kupuna Care Program, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Healthy Aging Partnership, and the meals program for seniors. These are all high priority programs for PABEA, as well as for all of the Aging Network.

We realize that Legislators face many legitimate demands, together with limited funds to meet such demands, but hope that you will give Hawaii's elders and persons with disabilities the attention they deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: [Anne Biedel](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Laird](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659 Hearing on Wed 2/29/12 at 9:15 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:30:49 PM

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

From: [Beverly Stanich/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Beverly.Stanich/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: larry@readaloudamerica.org
Subject: Senate Bill 2659
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:42:52 PM

We would like to express our support for this bill in an effort to continue funding for the Read Aloud Program in Hawaii. Our students, parents and staff have participated in this evening event twice in the space of the last three years and can testify to its power and impact on families and children in our community. The turnout in the evenings far surpassed any parent function our school has ever sponsored as families brought their children back to school in the evenings for multiple sessions. The message they heard was consistently about healthy families, productive time together, more time reading and less time watching TV.

As leaders of our community, we ask that you be proactive in continuing to fund this program that helps children, families and schools to strengthen literacy and family values. We appreciate your support.

Beverly Stanich,
Principal
Wailuku Elementary School

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sandymccul@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:45:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2659

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bruce MCCullough
Organization: Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans
E-mail: sandymccul@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

I am submitting comments on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans(HARA). HARA is in strong support of this Bill. It is extremely important that the safety net for our elder population be protected. The problem's with our Economy should not be a reason for not using this fund for our ELDERS.

From: [Geoff Cassel](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: support senate bill 2659
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 11:51:40 AM

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Geoff Cassel, volunteer reader for Read Aloud America

RE: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol
Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a one time volunteer reader for Read Aloud America, I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659. 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 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, I respectfully ask for your kokua in supporting Senate Bill 2659.

Geoff Cassel



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 Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Committee on Ways and Means Testimony in Support of S.B. 2659, SD1 Relating to The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

**Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 A.M.
Conference Room 211**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate monies from the emergency and budget reserve 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 49. 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 either plateaued or been slightly reduced over the past several years 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 from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund 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.

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

From: [Jean Wayne](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:33:10 AM

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

Telephone: (808) 531-1985

RE: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As President of Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

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 Senate Bill 2659.

Jed Gaines, President, Read Aloud America, Inc.

Date

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Joanne Laird, Program Director, Read Aloud America
joannelaird@readaloudamerica.org
808-757-0981

RE: Senate Bill 2659
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

As Program Director for Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kimok@pacificil.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:11:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2659

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kimo Keawe, CEO
Organization: Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
E-mail: kimok@pacificil.org
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

The Hawaii Centers for Independent Living (HCIL) has been providing CORE and Independent Living Services, Statewide for the past 31 years.

During this time, HCIL has served over 970 thousand consumers, from brain injury syndrome; housing for the elderly who are disabled; Career Exploration training and job placement for persons with disability and in providing access, choices and Independent Living skills to all of consumers, regardless of age and disability.

The appropriation out of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund of the State of Hawai`i, SB2659 is necessary to continue the services to the "served and underserved" disabled community.

We lost this same bill in the 2011 legislation and a number of non-profits had to reduce their services and staff reduction to the community due to the Rainy Day Fund being withdrawn to go towards the State deficit

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Kory Strona, Participant/Volunteer, Read Aloud America, Inc.
Telephone: (808) 349-8252
RE: Senate Bill 2659
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

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 Senate Bill 2659; 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](#)
Cc: larry@readaloudamerica.org
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 1:24:50 PM

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

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

Date: February 29, 2012

Time: 9:15 am

Place: Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**RE: SB2659, SD1 RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND**

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed, and now retired from the YMCA of Honolulu. I have been the Director of Weed and Seed for the past 12 years.

I am in strong support of SB2659,SD1

Weed and Seed is a program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, in partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu.

Weed and Seed on a National level was a victim of budget cuts when the Department of Justice decided to cut grant programs. Weed and Seed was one the oldest, being around since the Bush I administration. In Hawaii, we received the permission from the DOJ to continue with the program, including using the name and logo, recognizing that W&S in Hawaii is robust and supported by the community.

The State has benefited greatly from the Weed and Seed Program and that is based on the two-pronged approach of "weeding out" criminal activity and introducing "seeding" activities and programs ensuring long-term positive changes and a better quality of life for stakeholders.

Since there are no longer funds available for Weed and Seed from the Department of Justice. We are depending on local government and private donations to continue the program. The current funds end in October of 2012.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Matthew Gurewitsch](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Laird \(larry@readaloudamerica.org\)](mailto:larry@readaloudamerica.org)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 11:54:39 AM
Attachments: [Rap Testimony 2.doc](#)

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.



Matthew Gurewitsch
3415 Kuaua Place
Kihei, Maui HI 96753

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

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

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Meridith Russell, Volunteer for Read Aloud America, Inc.
Telephone: (808) 579-9073

RE: Senate Bill 2659
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 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 Senate Bill 2659.

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 for Senate Bill 2659.

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Moana Jenson, Volunteer at Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 280-4479

RE: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee

As a volunteer at Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

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 5th 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.

Please, please, please support Senate Bill 2659 and help fund this awesome program!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Moana Jenson

Volunteer at Read Aloud America and an avid reader for life



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
SB2659 SD1 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE

February 29, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits comments in support of SB2659 SD1 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve.

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. It will also mean that members of the public who call Legal Aid 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

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Patricia Hemmen

Telephone: (808) 214-5549

RE: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a volunteer with Read Aloud America I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

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 in supporting Senate Bill 2659.

Patricia Hemmen Volunteer, Read Aloud America.

Feb. 28, 2012



Read Aloud America

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/26/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): Alma Livai Zip Code: 96797
Phone: (808) 686-9543 Email: alma.livai@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 beenⁱⁿ this kind of fun before in my whole life. This is my ~~daughter's~~^{daughter's} 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.



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #2
02/9/12

Waipahu Elementary

Name (optional): Duseane K. Pele Zip Code: 90797
Phone: 808-~~850~~70-9497 Email: velata#03@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.

I believe that the event tonight was very interesting. I don't usually don't go to things like this. However I believe that what this RAP is doing, is a very good thing. My cousins are very interested in coming to events like this, because of how they like to hear people read and answer question about what they just finish hearing. However the only comments I would have for this RAP is keep up the good work!!!
you may not change everyone that comes to the RAP but one person's life to one family can be a great accomplishment for their own family and for the community.

RAP Sponsors

Papa John's • Pepsi • Frito - Lay

1314 S. King St #G4 • Honolulu, HI 96814 • 808-531-1985 • Fax 808-593-1984

www.readaloudamerica.org

Thank you!!!



Read Aloud America

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/26/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): Janet Uta Zip Code: 96797
Phone: (808) 782-7481 Email: _____

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.

Today or Tonight was our first times. But it was great. We wonder was is a next step for our kids to learn. My kids like the program. They willing to learn more about reading. This program is benefit our kids and us in the future.



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #2
02/07/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): William Poepoe Zip Code: 96753
Phone: (808) 268-7119 Email: williampoepe@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.

i loved the R.A.P. session tonight. Looking forward to next weeks session. The kids had a blast and is now so exited to read their books. Last week, it was a task to get them to read. Tonight they are excited. Thank-you for all you do.



Read Aloud America

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/26/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): HARTSFIELD Zip Code: 96797
Phone: _____ Email: OVERPARLO@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.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING SUCH A COMMUNITY
BASED PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY FOR LOWER
INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS.

ARE THERE CERTAIN BOOKS YOU FIND
PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO MOTIVATE YOUNG
READERS TO THE JOYS OF READING?



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/24/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): Ravena Hoata Zip Code: 96753
Phone: 808-385-1248 Email: _____

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.

I got NO comments, but to say Big Mahalo to all Staff, Management, to all entire of Rap. yeah! your Right I feel, so good Now, I feel like it big changes, a changes its good changes. you make us understand what will do. save time, save money instead for sure my children will ~~consintret~~ consintret in their study. I have time to go library instas
again Mahalo. ")



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #2
02/07/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): Leslie Zip Code: 96753
Phone: 268-6777 Email: leslierae2@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.

Thank you for taking the time to read to us adults as a group. It helped to rekindle the joy & wonder of storytelling... which apparently starts with listening. Such a basic concept, yet overlooked as the primary component to comprehension & literacy.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your
Dedication & commitment
to our families.

KAUA'I

O'AHU

MAUI

MOLOKA'I

LANA'I

HAWAII



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #3
02/21/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): Leslie Garcia Zip Code: 96753
Phone: 268-6777 Email: leslierae2@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.

Thank you for your time, effort & sincere dedication to our community. I would like to share a scene from our family that I can only attribute to this program as the catalyst.

My 12yr old Daughter picked a "scary stories & pomes" book from the library. It was age appropriate and after dinner she wanted to read to us. My 17 yr old (SR in High school) son was wide eyed as he saw the book and fondly remembered reading the same stories. He quickly asked to see it and he started sharing with us how spooky they were to him as a younger boy. I asked him to read one of his favorite to me/us and so it began... We ended up all taking 1 turn reading. Me (mom), Sister (15), Sista (12) Brother (17) & brother (9)... We were supportive of each other, The older helping younger with tough words and by each of us taking a turn we created a dinner to remember. Thank you - for helping us remember what is truly important... connections as a family.

KAUAI O'AHU MAUI MOLOKA'I LANA'I HAWAII

P.S. one tip/trick my daughter & I do
on the way to town. Turn the
radio off & have whoever is in
the front seat read to us. It's
about 7-12 min but ended up
being a great way to take
advantage of every min we have!

They won't be Lil forever & these
are the kind of memories kids
Deserve to take forward w/ them.

Mahalo nui loa! 🙏



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/24/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): Judy Whatley Zip Code: 96753
Phone: 808 875-4074 Email: Jlwfree@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.

Today's session is so necessary for every school! It is fun, educational, but most importantly stresses the importance of reading daily. I think that TTTT is such a great idea! My family will begin TTTT immediately!

Bonding as parents/children is so important. Children who grow up knowing they are loved by their parents - are much less prone to being a criminal, vagrant, or use drugs/alcohol.

I know this from experience!

My daughter + I read at least a book per day each - privately. I think the read-aloud idea is great!

KAUAI

OAHU

MAUI

MOLOKAI

LANAI

HAWAII



Read Aloud America

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #2
02/09/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): ROWENA C. REYNOL ACCANAS Zip Code: 96797
Phone: 628-8457 Email: rowena.reynolaccanas

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.

RAP is such a great way to gather families together for an evening of fun and fellowship. Most importantly, it is a wonderful way of getting the children see the importance of reading. It is proven in research that reading stimulates the brain, expands vocabulary and comprehension.

Way to go RAP! You are encouraging + on your way to developing millions of lifetime readers. Praying that you will get more funding so you can inspire more people to READ!

~~Q - Do you also do RAP @ preschools?~~



Read Aloud America

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #2
02/09/2012

Waipahu Elementary School

Name (optional): SACE. Zip Code: 96797
Phone: (808) 306-3204 Email: _____

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.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO FUND THIS RAP PROGRAM CAUSE THE COMMUNITY OF WAIPAHAU HAS PLENTY MICRONESIAN PEOPLE THAT CANT BARELY UNDERSTAND ENGLISH YET ALONE WRITE IT, BUT YET THE PROGRAM IS GOOD CAUSE THEY ARE WILLING TO COME AND LEARN NOT ONLY TO READ BUT TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION AND BETTER THEIR LIVES

THANK-YOU SO MUCH.



Read Aloud America®

Building Families of Lifetime Readers

RAP #1
01/24/12

KIHEI ELEMENTARY

Name (optional): Reinalyn Larioma Zip Code: 96753
Phone: 808-214-6220 Email: reilyn.larioma@gmail.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.

I Love your TTTT program as well, because not only that we have more time together, but as a single mother of 4, I be able to save on my electric bill for keeping my kids out of electronics for few hours aday. I been coming to RAP program here in Kihei as often as I can. I enjoy bringing my kids as a volunteers & encouraging my kids to read to improve our community.

Much Mahalo,
Larioma Family

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 12:15:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2659

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D
Organization:
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:
Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am testifying on behalf of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), the body which advises the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's older citizens. My testimony represents only the views of the Board.

PABEA strongly supports SB 2659, which provides appropriations for many worthy organizations which help meet Hawaii's health, welfare and economic needs. The Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund is designed specifically to meet such needs in times of economic downturn, which Hawaii and the nation have faced for almost four years. PABEA particularly appreciates to inclusion of funding for respite services, Senior Centers, the Kupuna Care Program, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Healthy Aging Partnership, and the meals program for seniors. These are all high priority programs for PABEA, as well as for all of the Aging Network.

We realize that Legislators face many legitimate demands, together with limited funds to meet such demands, but hope that you will give Hawaii's elders and persons with disabilities the attention they deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Renee_Romerdahl/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joannelaird@readaloudamerica.org
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:15:45 PM

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: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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.

On behalf of the many schools, the keiki of Hawaii, and their families, I urge you to please support Senate Bill

2659.

Sincerely,

Renee Romerdahl
Kihei Elementary
First Grade Teacher

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From: drrobert_santry@lifesuccess-adventures.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Laird](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659 Hearing on Wednesday 2/29/12 at 09.15
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:15:05 PM

Monday/Evening/270212

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: [Robert Zahl](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing Wed 2/29/12 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 11:51:58 AM

Aloha Committee Members;

I believe that the importance of learning to read, is only second to learning to speak.

I support the passage of Senate Bill 2659, and funding The Read Aloud America program

Robert Zahl

Wailuku, Hawaii

February 27, 2012

From: Roy Katsuda, Hale Mahaolu Executive Director
Kathy Louis, Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program Director

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

Re: Testimony for Hearing on Wednesday, February 28, 2012, 9:15 a.m.
SB2659, SD1 (SSCR2412) Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

We are in support of SB2659, SD1 (SSCR2412) for the appropriation emergency funds from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the Kupuna Care Program and Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program. This bill will allow Hale Mahaolu to budget and expend the allocated funds to our Personal Care Program in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner as we have done for the past 26 years.

The Department of Human Services has funded our Adult Personal Care Program since 1985. Through the years, Hale Mahaolu has helped many of Maui County's frail elderly and disabled adults to remain safely in their homes and prevent unnecessary or premature institutionalization. Our clients are struggling more than ever to have their needs met in the privacy of their home due to cuts in funding and services. It makes fiscal sense to maintain people in their homes, as long term care facilities cost the clients, community and State seven times more than it does to help them remain at home.

The clients we serve do not fit the mold for Medicaid Waiver services, as they are not nursing home level clients or they are in the "gap group" who do not qualify for Medicaid or Kupuna Care services because of their age and needs. Although they are not nursing home level clients, they require personal care services to help them safely maintain an independent lifestyle.

Our request for \$210,000 will provide over 10,500 hours of subsidized personal care services a year. In addition to our clients who receive personal care subsidies, we also serve more than 100 clients in the community who have received unsubsidized personal care attendant referrals through our registry.

Please contact either of us at 872-4100 (Roy) or 873-0521 (Kathy) if you have any questions or need further information.

From: Steve_Moen/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: larry@readaloudamerica.org
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 am
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:51:12 PM

As a public school teacher and at a school that has used RAP; I strongly support funding for this effective and beneficial program. The attendance and community participation at my Elementary school has been outstanding and produced very positive outcomes. The benefit of providing this dynamic opportunity to bring families together and expose parents and children to the joy of reading, has positive and lasting results. I know of many families that now use the library as a direct result of their experience at RAP. We need to support and provide positive opportunities for our Island families. It would be a huge loss if RAP is not able to continue for lack of funding.

Steve Moen

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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: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 AM,

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the Senate Bill 2659 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 Senate Bill 2659. This program touches communities and children in a unique and meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Susan Harper

From: [Tara Otomo/WAILUKU/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Tara_Otomo/WAILUKU/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:26:39 PM

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: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 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 Senate Bill 2695.

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. Please support Senate Bill 2695. Mahalo for your Kokua.

Tara Otomo
Librarian
Wailuku Elementary School

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Victor Geminiani, Esq.

February 27, 2012

To: David Y. Ige, Senate Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

From: Victor Geminiani, Executive Director

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Re: Testimony in support of SB2659 Scheduled for a hearing on February 29, 2012 at 9:15 am

Dear Chair Ige and committee members,

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2659 which would appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education. My name is Victor Geminiani and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (formerly Lawyers for Equal Justice). Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (LEJ) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance and to complement the assistance provided by existing legal services providers in the state. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Health and human services programs that provide critical services to the poor in our state have suffered significant cuts in funding over the past 4 years. The level of these cuts has far exceeded those suffered by the general population or government workers. Our program conducted a survey of programs in the health and human services sector which concluded that budgets have been cut from 2008 to 2011 by 18.7% and staff has been reduced by 16% over the same time period. A copy of the survey results are attached to this testimony.

With these same programs facing another series of severe budget and staff cuts during this fiscal year, it is time to begin the process of stabilizing these programs and the critical services they provide to the poor individuals, families, and communities throughout the state. We urge you to pass SB2659 with a recommendation for the appropriation of funds sufficient to end the further erosion of the quality and quantity of the critical services provided to those in desperate need.

Again, thank you for providing us with an opportunity to testify in support of SB2659.

Aloha,

Victor Geminiani,
Executive Director

Social Services Programs: Funding Reductions, 2008-2011



<u>Organization</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2008-2011 Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
A	\$3,029,930	\$2,915,101	-4%	\$2,698,380	-7%	\$2,151,163	-20%	-878767	-29%
B <i>see n. 1</i>	\$270,449	\$97,968	-64%	\$117,968	20%	\$117,968	0%	-152481	-56%
C <i>see n.2</i>	\$5,200,000	\$5,100,000	-2%	\$4,500,000	-12%	\$4,200,000	-7%	-1000000	-19%
D	\$15,333,417	\$15,738,524	3%	\$12,515,838	-20%	\$12,392,270	-1%	-2941147	-19%
E	\$1,288,000	\$1,392,000	8%	\$1,400,000	1%	\$1,580,000	13%	292000	23%
F <i>see n.3</i>	\$11,971,000	\$11,467,000	-4%	\$9,550,000	-17%	\$8,000,000	-16%	-3971000	-33%
G	\$31,943,092	\$26,873,868	-16%	\$23,490,481	-13%	\$20,342,057	-13%	-11601035	-36%
H	\$19,618,750	\$24,100,956	23%	\$20,192,020	-16%	\$21,266,366	5%	1647616	8%
I	\$12,700,000	\$11,800,000	-7%	\$10,800,000	-8%	\$10,000,000	-7%	-\$2,700,000	-21%
J	\$8,900,000	\$8,300,000	-7%	\$7,400,000	-11%	\$7,200,000	-3%	-1700000	-19%
K	\$8,889,161	\$9,111,611	3%	\$7,679,097	-16%	\$8,481,330	10%	-407831	-5%
L	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	0%	\$400,000	-60%	\$200,000	-50%	-800000	-80%
M	\$21,000,000	\$17,000,000	-19%	\$22,000,000	29%	\$19,000,000	-14%	-2000000	-10%
TOTALS	\$141,143,799					\$114,931,154		-\$26,212,645	-18.57%

Notes:

1. B: The particularly high budget cut for B is a result of an entire program being defunded by the state.
2. C: These figures represent Medicaid DD/MR Waiver revenue only.
3. F's current 2011 budget is \$10,160,000 but they anticipate the budget will actually be less than \$8,000,000 due to cuts.

Social Services Programs: Staff Reductions, 2008-2011



<u>Organization</u>	<u>2008 Staff</u>	<u>2009 Staff</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2010 Staff</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2011 Staff</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>2008-2011 Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
A	45.5	39.5	-13%	35.5	-10%	33	-7%	-13	-27%
B	6.5	6	-8%	6	0%	6	0%	-1	-8%
C	100	95	-5%	90	-5%	85	-6%	-15	-15%
D see n.5	243	258	6%	243	-6%	194	-20%	-49	-20%
E	5	6	20%	6	0%	5	-17%	0	0%
F	222	266	20%	239	-10%	128	-46%	-94	-42%
G	539	503	-7%	449	-11%	425	-5%	-114	-21%
H	325	334	3%	308	-8%	310	1%	-15	-5%
I	150.5	147.5	-2%	135	-8%	127	-6%	-23.5	-16%
J	143	144	1%	135	-6%	126	-7%	-17	-12%
K	47	54	15%	57	6%	46	-19%	-1	-2%
L	5	5	0%	3	-40%	3	0%	-2	-40%
M	430	400	-7%	435	9%	410	-6%	-20	-5%
TOTALS	2258.5					1898		-364	-16%

Notes:

NB: Part-time staff are counted as 0.5 staff members.

5. D: staff counts include part-time and on-call staff as 1 staff member. Increases are due to decreases in full-time positions; laid off full time staff members became part-time or on-call staff. Hence these figures are misleading in terms of the increase.

From: Christine_Wolfrum/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:29:17 PM

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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From: [Cynthia Kay](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Laird](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 10:24:00 PM

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: ed.corbett
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 2659 - Read Aloud America
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:48:36 PM

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

From: [E Havelin](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 am
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:18:36 AM

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/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Halle_Maxwell/KIHEI/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us; TIMOTHY_SHIM/IAO/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Seante Bill 2659...Hearing on 2/29/2012 @9:15
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:28:25 AM
Importance: High

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.

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From: [ecsway](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Sarnier; ""@readaloudamerica.org](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:58:52 PM

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**

From: Kim_Spencer/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: RAP
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:41:24 AM

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: Lisa_Peterson/KIHEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joannelaird@readaloudamerica.org
Subject: Senate Bill 2659, Hearing on Wed. 2/29/12 at 9:15 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:25:42 PM

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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From: [Mary Baker](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Funding for READ ALOUD program.
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:42:27 AM

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,

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