

SB 935



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair

The Honorable Michele Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by

Rodney A. Maile

Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 935, 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 37 of Senate Bill No. 935, S. D. 1, which appropriates \$1.0 million 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. 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



Senate Bill No. 935, S. D. 1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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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 2010, domestic abuse/protective order filings increased by more than 12%, even as the availability and extent of domestic violence services were decreasing. The proposed \$1.0 million appropriation would enable at least partial restoration of these services for FY 2012.

While the 2010 Legislature reduced the Judiciary's FY 2011 budget base by another \$8.3 million, it also passed Act 191 which provided approximately \$2.5 million from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the Judiciary - \$1 million for domestic violence services and \$1.5 million to specified providers for various types of legal aid and treatment services. However, this was only a one-time infusion of funding for these services for FY 2011. Senate Bill No. 935, S. D. 1, seeks to provide one-time funding again in FY 2012 for these services.

The Judiciary takes no position on Sections 38 through 43 of Senate Bill No. 935, S. D. 1, which appropriate \$1,577,000 from the State Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the Judiciary to be expended as follows: \$200,000 to Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to provide pro bono legal services for indigent persons, \$720,000 to Legal Aid Society of Hawaii to provide general civil legal services, \$282,000 to University of Hawaii Family Law Clinic to provide services to obtain TROs, \$150,000 to Catholic Charities to provide intra-familial sexual assault services, \$150,000 to Children's Alliance of Hawaii to provide child sex assault services, and \$75,000 for the Weed & Seed Program (**Note: Last year, Act 191 appropriated the funding for the Weed and Seed Program to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.**) It is very likely that the identified funding would be helpful to these programs, and that these organizations 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. 300, H. D. 1, and Senate Bill No. 1000, 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. 935, S. D. 1.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 25, 2011

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

Dear Senators Ige and Kidani and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 935 SD1 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 935 SD1**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate moneys from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and public welfare.

The current fiscal situation is threatening Hawaii's safety net of basic education, human services, and health to its most vulnerable citizens. SB 935 SD1 will address the diminishing resources by maintaining essential services.

All the programs included in the bill address the vital needs of specific target groups/areas (aging, child care, dental, disability, domestic violence, healthy start, hospitals, housing, uninsured, etc.). Each target group/area is equally important and uniquely defined as vulnerable and deserving of priority status in determining what to include in the State's budget.

The Council strongly supports the following provisions in the bill that address various programs that provide essential services for individuals with DD and their families:

1. Section 2, page 3, lines 7-12: Department of Health (DOH) Respite Program (\$200,000)
2. Section 3, page 3, lines 13-18: DOH Healthy Start Program (\$1.5 million)
3. Section 6, page 4, lines 15-20: Aging and Disability Resource Center (\$100,000)
4. Section 7, page 4, lines 21-22 and page 5, lines 1-4: DOH DD Medicaid Waiver Program (\$1.5 million)

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
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5. Section 9, page 5, lines 11-16: DOH Partnerships in Community Living Program (\$150,000)
6. Section 24, page 11, lines 7-22 and page 12, lines 1-8: Adult dental care provided at federally qualified health centers through the Hawaii Primary Care Association (\$1.9 million)
7. Section 25, page 12, lines 9-15: University of Hawaii Maui Community College adult dental care program (\$100,000)
8. Section 45, page 19, lines 14-22: Advocacy services provided to individuals with DD and mental illness through the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (\$165,505).

The Council emphasizes the urgency in getting this bill passed by the Legislature so it can be forwarded to the Governor for his action to maintain basic services to Hawaii's most needy and vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 935 SD1.**

Sincerely,



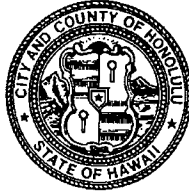
Liz Ann Salvador
Chair



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

SAMUEL E. H. MOKU
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Community Services

MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 935, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.

COMMITTEE(S):

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HEARING DATE: Friday, February 25, 2011

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

COMMITTEE REQUESTS 1 COPIES

TESTIFIER(S): Samuel E.H. Moku, Director
(Written testimony only. For more information, please call
Elizabeth Bethea, Elderly Affairs Division, at 768-7705.)

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Community Services' Elderly Affairs Division supports this bill.

The Elderly Affairs Division is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

This omnibus bill includes funding for many programs that support the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents in Hawaii. We strongly support funding for the following programs:

Section 4 - Senior Centers. Home and Community-Based Supportive Services enable seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible. These services include multi-purpose senior centers that coordinate and integrate services for older adults such as congregate meals, community education, health screening, exercise/health promotion programs and transportation. The socialization and recreation opportunities offered by senior centers are crucial in keeping seniors active and engaged, one of the most effective ways of preventing or delaying loneliness, isolation, depression and related declines in mental and physical health.

Section 5 – Kupuna Care. The Kupuna Care Program provides assistance to frail older adults who cannot live at home without adequate help from family or formal services. This program helps older adults avoid premature institutionalization by providing essential services, including attendant care, case management, chore, home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care and transportation.

Section 6 – Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The U.S. Administration on Aging has long sought to establish a “no wrong door” approach to access services for the disabled and older adults and their caregivers. EAD has been part of the development of this initiative in Hawaii for the past four years, working with the State Executive Office on Aging and the other county Area Agencies on Aging. Among many accomplishments, this initiative had led to the development of an important online resource, the Hawaii ADRC website (<http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/>), and has brought additional federal funding to Hawaii.

Section 11 – Healthy Aging Partnership Program. Through the Healthy Aging Partnership, EAD implements Stanford University’s Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence-based program that provides education, training and support groups to persons with chronic conditions to assist them in managing their own care. The results have been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, other evidence-based self-management programs have been introduced for arthritis and diabetes.

This funding is essential in maintaining the health and welfare of senior citizens in Hawaii.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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www.hawaiipca.net

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 935, SD1
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND
Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
February 25, 2011 9:00 a.m. Agenda, Room 211**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports the intent of this bill which would ensure adequate funding for essential services in the face of our state and national economic crisis.

Each of the items identified for funding in SB 935, SD 1 is important to the health and well-being of Hawai'i. Each contributes substantially to preventing far worse calamities and costs than we currently experience.

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association particularly asks your support for:

- Section 12 that appropriates funds to subsidize the costs of the emergency room at Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.
- Section 16 that appropriates funds to Kokua Kalihi Valley.
- Section 20, which would continue funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative, a program that served 1,667 low income immigrants last year. (\$550,000).
- Section 24, which funds adult dental care.
- Sections 26, 27, and 28, which would restore funding for Outstationed Eligibility Workers at community health centers and pay for outreach in high risk communities to ensure that vulnerable individuals are linked to public benefits for which they are eligible. These workers find the uninsured who are eligible for Med-QUEST and other programs and assist them to submit complete applications so they can get needed health care. Given the drastic cuts in MQD staffing, this community-based service is needed more than ever.

We would also like to request that you insert a new section in SB 935 that would appropriate \$5,000,000 to pay for health care provided to the uninsured, should this need not be included elsewhere in the budget.

Please note that none of the one-time rainy day appropriations we support should supplant on-going general and special funds directed to Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for considering the needs of the growing number of uninsured residents of Hawai'i, as well as many other people who are more vulnerable than ever during this unsettling time.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by

Dee Jay Mailer, CEO of Kamehameha Schools & Vice Chair of the Early Learning Council

February 25, 2011

SB 935, SD1 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Chair Ige and Committee Members,

As a member of the Early Learning Council, I offer this testimony in support of SB 935, SD1, and section 29 in particular, which appropriates funds for child care subsidies.

Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state's early learning system. Among its duties, HRS § 302L-3(a)(3) directs the council to “[c]oordinate, improve, and expand upon existing early learning programs and services for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten”. The Early Learning Council strongly supports this bill's inclusion of monies for child care subsidies.

Our state's economic challenges have negatively impacted our young children and their families, especially with regard to preschool subsidies for low income children. The number of public school kindergarten students who previously attended preschool has dropped each of the last two years, and only 1 out of every 5 public school kindergarten classes had most of their students consistently demonstrating the necessary pre-literacy skills at the start of this school year. Clearly, more of our young children are not prepared to start and succeed in school. Money through this bill will help our economically challenged families with young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Creating solutions, changing lives

Easter Seals Hawai'i

Oahu Support Services
92-461 Makakilo Drive
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Phone: 808.678.3754
Fax: 808.686.9538
www.eastersealshawaii.org

O`AHU

Adult Day Health
Program at Central
Union Church

Assistive Technology
Program

Ewa Adult Day Health
Program

Family Support
Services Program

Kailua Early
Intervention Program

Kapolei Early
Intervention Program

O`ahu Support
Services

Partnerships in
Community Living
Program

Sultan Early
Intervention Program

Youth Services
Program

KAUA`I

Kaua`i Early
Intervention Program

Kaua`i Support
Services

Kaua`i Youth Services

HAWAII

Hilo Early Intervention
Program

Hilo Support Services
Program

Hilo Youth Services

MAUI COUNTY

Adult Day Health
Program at Hale
Hauoli

Support Services
Program

Partnerships in
Community Living
Program

Thursday, February 24, 2011

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means
Committee.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: **SB 935 Senate Draft 1 (SD1) Relating to the Emergency and Budget
Reserve Fund**

Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00am (Senate Ways and Means Committees)
State Capitol Conference Room 211

Dear Honorable Senator David Y. Ige and Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani:

Easter Seals Hawaii provides exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. On behalf of Easter Seals Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 935 (SD1), which appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.

Easter Seals Hawaii humbly asks for your support of **SB 935 (SD1)**, which will set aside funding from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education for 2011-2012. SB 935 (SD1) includes appropriations for the following Developmental Disabilities (DD) services: Department of Health (DOH) Respite program, DD Division Partnerships in Community Living program, and the DD Medicaid Waiver program. Also included are the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Medicaid adult dental care, the University of Hawaii Maui Community College adult dental care center, and the Hawaii Disability Rights Center in providing advocacy services to individuals with DD and mental illness. All of the above listed programs will greatly impact countless individuals; to include those of which Easter Seals Hawaii provides services too.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Keller-Collins
VP of Program Development
Easter Seals Hawaii

February 24, 2011

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee: Senators

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 935, RELATING TO THE
EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday / February 25, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, Hawai'i State Capitol

Aloha Senators Ige and Kidani and committee members,

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

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

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

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

It is a critical year for the State and we understand that DHS has had to make difficult decisions to cut programs such as ours that service families in need. But we still need to support homeless families that are beginning their transition to a life of productivity and

sustainability. To continue the work that we have started and build on the platform that DHS and PIDF have worked to establish, we are humbly requesting your support for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 to support PIDF's efforts in working with homeless families on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu. Attached are 5 out of over 200 testimonials we have received from program participants and community partners who echo the need for the continuation of funds for our efforts. Copies of these testimonials can be provided electronically upon request.

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

Mahalo A Nui Loa,

Mr. Jan E. Dill, President
Partners in Development Foundation

RECEIVED FEB 07 2011

I am writing this letter to whomever I need too, as a concerned parent in regards to the Ka Pa'alana/Kama'ehu programs offered through the Partners in Development here in Kalealoa. I have had the opportunity and privilege to be able to work with the staff, which has helped me not only be a better parent, but also be a role model for my keiki who are in the program now.

Both my wife and I lost our jobs right around the same time, got evicted, stayed with a sister of hers and got kicked out because we over did our stay there and lived in our car with our seven year old daughter and two year old son. We eventually found out about the Onelau'ena Shelter and went through the process to get into the building. About two weeks after processing the paperwork, we moved in. It was then did we meet the staff of Ka Pa'alana because it was part of a program within the shelter.

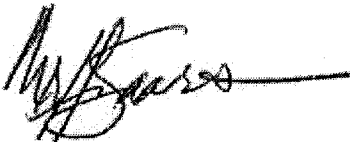
The staff was the most easy-going, understanding and compassionate group of people I have ever met. They made you feel at ease, worked with you on dealing with your situation, helped you with your keiki and mentored you as a parent on utilizing other methods of interacting with your keiki. I know for a fact that my wife was an emotional wreck because she didn't want our keiki to live in the shelter, but I told her that it would be better to live in a shelter than on the streets in our car because the streets isn't a place to raise our keiki. We, as an ohana has come a long way, having to deal with our emotions, living in a place with people coming from all walks of life, and always keeping our guard up because this was all new to us, but still following the rules and regulations within the shelter.

This program, over the course of living here had really made an impact on my ohana and has continued to be that impact for our ohana. My daughter attends the Kamaehu after school program and loves it! She is no longer in her comfort zone, and now interacts with the other keiki and is also independent and capable of managing without one us to help her. She had a difficult time reading and writing

and now has that ability through this program. My son attends the Ka Pa'alana Preschool program and doesn't want to leave the school at the ending of the day because he enjoys interacting with other keiki his age. He has also come a long way, having not only to make gestures or point every time he wanted something, but is able to speak clearly for his age with the assistance from the staff. These programs did more for us than what I mentioned. They offered Parenting classes to help us as parents deal with situations like being where we are at verses where we need to be, having that fresh start to pick yourself up again and make it work for you and your ohana. Offered computer skills, communication skills, job skills, how to make your resumes, ohana, your keiki and you, the list goes on. These programs also fed both the parents and keiki, gave what necessities you needed and could not afford to get it on your own, went to teacher conferences because the parents had no means of transportation, provided gifts during the holiday season for the keiki in the program, had performances for the ohana which the keiki had set up and performed for their parents, went on educational field trips to show the keiki what they didn't know was out there for them, helped mentor the youth, letting them know that there is a better world out there and taught them that there is hope for them and to never give up on what you want in life, do visits at hospitals because one of their keiki is ill, these are just a fraction of what they did and still do for the ohana and keiki in Kalaeloa. Since I've been in the shelter, and now live in a Transitional shelter, the staff has never turned any ohana away, always welcome returnees back with open arms and has gone above and beyond just so ohana like mines can look forward to a better life. Funding these types of programs is important because it has made a difference in our lives. These programs are needed because it has a huge impact on the keiki who attend. This is the only program I know for a fact that goes above and beyond, and the best part about all of this is that it's FREE! Not having programs like these to help us will not only devastate us, but it won't give us the purpose we need, which is basically to be an ohana and help one another succeed in life. Our keiki will go back to the cycle of being helpless and not having that opportunity to be somebody and make

that difference. Please kokua for the sake of us less fortunate trying to make a change in our lives with what has helped us through these programs. Most of us don't want to end up back where we came from; we want better lives for our keiki and a brighter future as well. Thank you for your time and we hope and pray that you will continue to fund these programs we so desperately need. Mahalo nui loa kakou.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Henry Soares", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Henry Soares

February 7, 2010

My name is Sarah Timbreza and I am writing this letter in support of the Partners in Development Kama'ehu Youth Program. Operating out of the HOPE for New Beginnings Shelter at Kalaheo, Datu Kama'ehu (Uncle Mike Kahue and his staff) is the only program for the youth who live at the shelter. They not only provide afterschool, homework support, but also try to incorporate hands on learning activities and fieldtrips to try and excite the child's interest in learning and the importance of education.

Residents at HOPE Shelter on an average only reside there about 6 to 8 months and in that short period of time I've had the awesome opportunity to witness for myself the great changes and positive impact Kama'ehu has had on many children.

My daughter Keaulana Timbreza-Duro is one of those lucky recipients. Although Keaulana has always done well academically her shyness has kept her from wanting to participate in extra curricular activities where her dad and I know she will thrive. After being in Aunt Sherree's group and having a leader who is outgoing and active we began to see small changes in Keaulana's behavior. She started to open up more around others. Aunt Sherree entered them a robotics competition that required the students to build and operate their own underwater robot and then be the only elementary school kids to compete against college students, and place 3rd. Was the beginning of Keaulana's

transformation. This experience was only 1 amongst many others which resulted in Keaulana gaining total confidence in participating competing and public speaking. So much so that in Jan 2010 Keaulana was awarded Student of the Month at Barber's Pt Elem.

And ~~this year~~ Keaulana is now attending Lehua Elementary where she is part of a robotics team, a student council representative, and was awarded one her class outstanding leaders for the school's second quarter.

An assembly in which Aunty Sherree Jessica, and Shawana, promptly attended to show their support. Aunty Sherree continues to keep in touch with us and is always there if we need any help with the children's school activities. ~~Keaulana's~~ Keaulana's success is only one of Kamuela's many successes in inspiring children that education is very important and, any support both physically and financially is always an investment to our future.

Thank You
Sincerely
Sarah Tembyzi

2/7/2011

To whom it may concern:

Hi my name is Kristy Kalani and I am Native Hawaiian. I currently live in Waianai at Ohana Ola Transitional shelter for families. I am a single mother with 4 children with Partners In Development Foundation's Kapa'alamā Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach Services Program for over 3 years.

Before participating in PIDE's program, I used to be homeless at Kea'au Beach park. I had a very low self esteem, trust issues, depressed, and always feeling hopeless and alone. I had 3 of my children there with me at the time and my parenting was unhealthy and my life became unmanageable.

Kapa'alamā Preschool has helped me and my family to grow by giving me the tools and skills in parenting my children, showing me how to be a positive person, showing concern and care, how to interact with my child, helping me build a bond with my child, Patiences, Positive directions and mainly helping me to realize how special my child is to me, and I appreciate the program for that.

I would be very sad and disappointed for KaPa'alana's Preschool free services to be eliminated for I would not be able to afford a preschool somewhere else or even a transportation being that I have no car and I ride the bus. My children and I have really grown up with this program and hope that they don't eliminate the free services for the sake of the families on the beaches, For the children on the beaches a place they can go to that is positive and healthy ~~to~~ to escape the negative ~~and~~ lifestyle for awhile to feel safe and secured for that moment to actually feel like someone cares for them. and for the parents with this program being available ^{and} free services will help a misguided parent and offer ^{the} her guidance that will ~~be~~ ^{better for} families lifestyle the way this program has given to me and my family. So I ask you to please do not eliminate TANF funds for PIDF's KaPa'alana Preschool Program.

Sincerely,
Kristy Kalani ^{and} family

February 7, 2011

Aloha,

My name is Lehua J. Rowland. I am a Native Hawaiian and I currently live in Waianae at 'Ohana Ola O Kahumana Transitional Housing. I have been a participant with Partners in Development Foundation's (PIDF) Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach Services Program since 2007.

I first attended Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool when my daughter Henzly was two years old at Waianae Valley Homestead- Kaupuni Park with Auntie Cheri. Auntie Cheri and staff has set the foundation in my mind that early education was important and that I was my child's first teacher. My daughter learned book conventions from Auntie Cheri and has always recited it " This is the front of the book, the spine of the book and these are the pages", she would always recite that to family and friends. We became homeless for two years and lived in our car in the Kakaako area. I realized my daughter was getting older. Sleeping at Kakaako Park and Kapiolani Park during the day and in the car at night was unsafe. I applied at 'Ohana Ola O Kahumana Transitional Housing and moved in on November 9, 2009. We attended Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool at 'Ohana Ola O Kahumana with Auntie Justine. Ka Pa'alana provided quality books that I could not afford to buy, to read to my daughter Henzly. At Ka Pa'alana my daughter learned how to share, socialize, write her name, learn math/science skills and much more. As a parent I learned how to interact with my daughter through staff and parenting education that Ka Pa'alana provided. Ka Pa'alana has also provided the opportunity for us to attend the Elmo show which I would have never been able to afford to take my daughter. Ka Pa'alana has assisted me in preparing my daughter for Kindergarten and have a jump start on her education. Today she attends Leihoku Elementary School and thanks to Ka Pa'alana's services she is doing tremendously exceptional and I have her report card to prove it!!!

I am grateful and privileged to have been hired by Partners in Development Foundation's Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach Services Program as a Teaching Assistant. Today I no longer collect SNAP benefits and receive Med. Quest after being on it for over 10 years!!!! PIDF has made a HUGE difference in my life and my families life. I will always remember to help others because PIDF's 'ohana has helped me have a better life and future!!!

Sincerely,

Lehua Rowland



February 24, 2011

TO: Committee on Ways and Means

FR: Richard P. Bettini
President and Chief Executive Officer

RE: Comments on SB 935 SD1 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center strongly supports SB 935 SD1. Each of the items identified for funding is important to the health and well-being of Hawai'i.

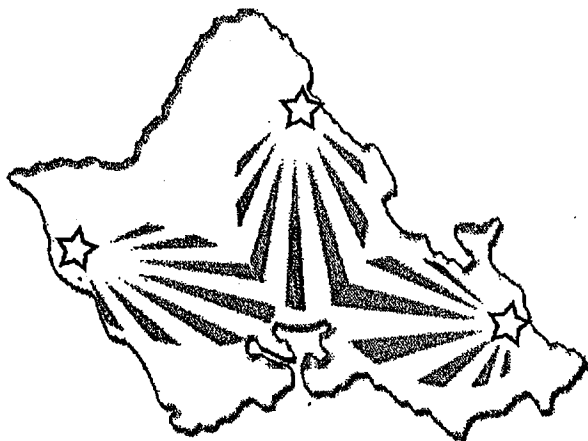
Of particular interest to the Health Center is Section 12 that appropriates funds to subsidize the costs of the emergency room at our Health Center. Support for the Health Center's emergency room is essential for its survival.

The emergency room is one of the most heavily utilized on Oahu. The majority of emergency room visits are for conditions related to asthma, upper respiratory infection, complications from insulin-dependent diabetes, cardiovascular conditions such as chest pains and heart attacks, threatened labor, and injuries and wounds, many which are violence related. Time is crucial in many of these situations. The Health Center's ER is rated as a Type II facility for Hospital Capability for Readiness in time of a disaster/security situation and is designated as a Trauma Support Clinic by the State Emergency Medical System.

The Health Center has served the Waianae community since 1972 providing primary care, emergency medical services, and a wide range of other health and social services.

The Health Center is a safety net for the poor and underserved and needs the financial support provided through SB 935 SD1.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to comment.



AHA Rural Oahu
Accountable Healthcare Alliance of Rural Oahu

Our Mission

Promoting access, quality, and cost effectiveness in healthcare by empowering consumers to evaluate the performance of healthcare agencies that serve them.

Created and operated through an interagency agreement between Koolauloa Community Health and Wellness Center, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and Waimanalo Health Center.

Our Goals

Form an interdisciplinary council, directed by consumers, to promote and utilize value based systems in healthcare.

Develop value based healthcare systems that include application of health information technology performance metrics and research directed at improved access and quality while also promoting cost containment.

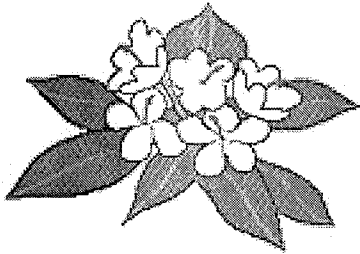
Help assure that medically underserved populations and medically underserved communities, including those with population characteristics of high poverty and cultural uniqueness, are not underrepresented in the development of performance metrics emerging in value based healthcare reform.

Engage government and other healthcare payers, medical and related service providers, and neighboring communities in a dialogue on the integration and reengineering of healthcare services with a particular emphasis on the consumer perspective.

Help address the unique healthcare needs of rural Oahu including the communities of Waianae, Koolauloa, and Waimanalo while developing systems that may be transferrable to other Medically Underserved Areas or Populations.

Develop new models of healthcare reimbursement for community health centers that align incentives with the performance standards selected by healthcare consumers as well as payers.

Expand the evolving model of the "Patient Centered Healthcare Home" to include an enhanced role for consumers.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 24, 2011

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Barbara Pretty, *Acting
Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Mary Ellis
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Dr. David Fray
Ms. Martha Guinan
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Dr. Martin Hirsch
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Kristy Nishimura
Ms. Sue Pyun
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. August Suehiro
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Mr. Duane Yee
Ms. Carol Young

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 935, SD 1 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY AND
BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), supports SB 935, SD1 which appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.

In particular, SEAC is in favor of using these emergency funds to maintain a safety net for individuals with developmental disabilities under the DD Waiver to allow them to pursue their vocational and independent living goals. We likewise support restoration of respite services to families of individuals with disabilities, as these services enable families to better participate in their child's educational and vocational goals by providing periodic breaks from caregiving.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1040, 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 2011

Committee on Ways and Means Testimony in Support of S.B. 935, SD1 Relating to The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

**Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 211**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in 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 Senate Committees on Human Services and Health for including a specific line item to the Hawaii Disability Rights Center in the amount of \$165,505. 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 plateaued 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 have received for the past thirty-four years, we will be 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.

We understand that that intent of the Committees on Human Services and Health was to appropriate the funds for FY2011-2012. However, the current SD1 Version in Section 45 reflects an appropriation for FY2010-2011. In conferring with the Chair of the Committee on Human Services, it seems clear that the intent was to cover the period for FY 2011-12. Therefore, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to conform to that intent and add a provision to that effect.

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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

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

DATE of Hearing: **Friday, February 25, 2011**
9:00 a.m. Room 211

SUBJECT: **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 935, SD1**

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

My name is Stella Wong and I am the Vice President of Programs at Catholic Charities Hawai'i. I am testifying **in strong support of SB935, SD1, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND,**

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

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports SB 935, SD1.

With the current economic situation, the numbers of people at risk are growing. There are more people coming to our doors needing food, shelter, jobs and other basics of life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to have to turn away families with young children, frail elders and individuals with disabilities.

Losing one's job in many families with young infants adds tremendous stress. Our programs dealing with child abuse, domestic violence, and family counseling have become more critical. Growing needs will only continue and further cuts will put more families at risk.

Cuts to services for senior citizens and individuals with developmental disabilities place these vulnerable populations at risk of costly institutionalization for which government, and taxpayers, will eventually bear the burden.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Testimony in Support of SB 935, SD1
Committees on Ways and Means
Friday, February 25, 2011
Page 2 of 2

The legislature had the foresight to set up the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund as a safety net for social services. The safety net for all social services that affect our most vulnerable in the state is getting very thin and will soon be in shreds if nothing is done. There will be many more people faced with health and safety issues and it will cost the State, and taxpayers, more money in the long run if we do not **do what we can now** to maintain these at risk populations in the community.

The social services situation has not changed much since last year. We still face shortfalls in providing our services to the most vulnerable groups. With TANF cuts to level 3 & 4 our clients will be affected as they receive fewer services from those providers. So we need to provide at least basic services to those most in need. Please help restore programs to protect the most vulnerable in this State. I strongly urge your committees to pass SB 935, SD1.

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



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

George J. Zweibel, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF AND REQUESTING AMENDMENTS
SB 935 SD1 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE

February 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (“Legal Aid”) submits comments in support of SB935 SD1 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve. We are also asking for an increase from \$720,000 to \$800,000 in the Legal Aid allocation in order to ensure that general immigration legal services can continue to be provided in Hawai‘i.

We understand that all programs are having a difficult time right now and the state is facing a significant budget deficit, 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, a family facing foreclosure assistance in renegotiating a loan to stay in their home, and since January 2010 to providing assistance to immigrants in becoming citizens. 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.

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. Legal Aid is the only legal service provider with offices on every island in the state, and annually provides legal assistance to approximately 10,000 Hawai‘i residents in the areas of consumer fraud, public assistance, family law, the prevention of homelessness, immigration, employment, protection from domestic violence.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

/s/

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director
527-8014

February 22, 2011

Lehua Ka'auwai-Krueger
General Manager
About Face Family of Programs

Good morning members of the committee,



About Face provides important life skills/job readiness skills in the most at-risk communities in the state of Hawaii. We are pursuing additional sources of funding but nothing is definite at this time. The 2 million requested is to preserve the minimum infrastructure statewide to be ready to expand should additional funding become available or when the economy gets better.

In all, the *About Face! Family of Programs* has served more than 12,000 learners, providing both direct and indirect benefits to their families and communities. Witness:

- About 800 learners graduate each year from the *About Face! Family of Programs*, producing an annual economic impact of \$208 million; diverting those 800 at-risk youth from lives of crime results in a further economic impact of \$2.1 billion
- Of learners who complete the *About Face! Family of Programs*, 94 percent realize at least a single-grade gain in the core tested areas of Reading and Mathematics
- Nearly 60 percent of learners in the *About Face! Family of Programs* land meaningful employment, almost double the national figure
- In 2010, nearly 4,000 Hawaiian teens participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program, landing jobs in a variety of high-interest industries at a time when teenage unemployment exceeded 30 percent.
- Service to remote communities; Ka'u, and Molokai are in need as these may be the areas that do not have any other programs available to them.
- Evidence based curriculum based on science methodology required for agencies and our program does that. Programs are tracked heavily in benchmarks and performance and have evidence of proof.
- Programs here in Hawaii has served as the model for other states such as Washington D.C. and North Carolina.

This is in request to amend SB935 with the following language;

There is appropriated out of the emergency and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2 million or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 to provide funding to the About Face family of programs for life skills/job readiness skills training for families in need statewide.

Thank you,
Lehua



1806 So. King Street | Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | (808)942-4708 | FAX (808)955-2739 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

Date: **Friday, February 25, 2011**
9:00am
Conference Room 211

Subject: SB 935, SD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

As the executive director for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC, HAEYC represent 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC) supports SB 935, SD1 relating to the emergency and budget reserve fund.

HAEYC recommends that the 2011 Hawaii State Legislature pass this bill and move to expedite moneys from the "rainy day fund" in order to full fill and extend existing contracts so that current levels of programs for education, health, and human services can be **maintained** to service Hawaii most vulnerable citizens.

Please recommend SB 935, SD1 for passage.

The volunteers and staff of Hawaii AEYC would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org.

Thank you for considering this bill.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



DATE: February 23, 2011

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair Ways and Means Committee
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Ways and Means
 &
 Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Sandra J. Yoro, SECOH Executive Director
 SECOH Operates in Senate Districts 8, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22

RE: **SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 935 SD 1**
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND
 Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2011

The Special Education Center of Hawaii (SECOH) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide personalized services to people with disabilities in the spirit of enriching lives. As health and human service advocates for vulnerable populations, *we strongly SUPPORT SB 935 SD 1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.*

The intent of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (EBRF) is to appropriate money to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, health, and human services. Passing this measure will appropriate from the EBRF the sum of \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2011-2012 for the developmental disabilities Medicaid waiver program.

Effective February 2009, people with intellectual and physical disabilities who participate in this Medicaid waiver program received a 15% reduction in services to assist the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH-DDD) to balance their budget as DOH-DDD was prohibited from requesting an emergency appropriation. This budget balancing initiative has left the majority of our customers who have severe intellectual and physical disabilities without adult day care services 1-2 days per week and without personal assistance services for up to 20 hours per week. Family members and primary care providers have had to reduce their own work schedules or hire privately to care for their family members causing them economic hardship in already economically challenging times. Full participation in this Medicaid program is vital to the health, welfare, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in our society.

I respectfully request your Committees PASS SB 935 SD 1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Mahalo for your consideration and support!



Hearing date:
Friday, Feb 25,
2011; 9:00 a.m.
Senate Committee
on Ways and
Means
Room 211

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **SB 935 SD1: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop. Good Beginnings is also a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The following information is provided to help you in your decision-making process.

Addressing the needs of our at-risk young children and families in the early years is foundational to our early learning system. The programs named in this bill impacting young children such as Healthy Start, Child Care Subsidies, and Families for R.E.A.L. are part of the safety net for our keiki and foundational to school readiness when they start kindergarten.

The Healthy Start Program was pioneered in Hawaii and championed by leaders such as Governor Abercrombie when he served in the Legislature. Since then, this vital program has been improved upon considerably and addresses the needs of our most at-risk babies and families at the very beginning years. This is foundational to our early learning system. These hospital screenings as well as home visits are critical to a child abuse prevention focus as they initiate important parental engagement and training. Thanks to this program, families are better equipped to foster their child's early learning and healthy growth

Additionally, we have seen a decrease in the number of public school kindergarten students who previously attended preschool: 61 percent in School Year 2008-2009, 60 percent in School Year 2009-2010, and 59 percent in SY 2010-2011. We believe this is a major factor in more of our children starting school not ready to succeed. For example, less than 1 out of 4 public school kindergarten classes had most of their students consistently exhibiting the necessary pre-literacy and pre-math skills at the beginning of the current school year. Our keiki truly need our help so they can start school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed.

Good Beginnings Testimony – SB935 SD1 (page 2)

Based on several early childhood longitudinal studies, the science of children's brain development, and other studies, we know that a significant way to reverse this alarming trend of children not ready to succeed is to invest in programs such as child care subsidies, Families for R.E.A.L., and Preschool Open Doors (POD).

The POD program was established in 1993 to contribute to the school readiness of children four years old, and three years old with special needs. Unfortunately, the enrollment in this program has severely decreased from over 1300 in School Year 2008-2009 to 265 at the present time. It is a vital program requiring funding.

Our weakened economy has placed increased stress on families, and these programs are a major part of the support system for at-risk children.

Mahalo for your consideration. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; lchun@goodbeginnings.org.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony by
Early Learning Council
February 25, 2011
S.B. 935 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Chair Ige and Committee Members,

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support of S.B. 935, and section 29 in particular, which appropriates funds for child care subsidies.

Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state’s early learning system. Among its duties, HRS § 302L-3(a)(3) directs the council to “[c]oordinate, improve, and expand upon existing early learning programs and services for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten”. The Early Learning Council strongly supports this bill’s inclusion of monies for child care subsidies.

Our state’s economic challenges have negatively impacted our young children and their families, especially with regard to preschool subsidies for low income children. The number of public school kindergarten students who previously attended preschool has dropped each of the last two years, and only 1 out of every 5 public school kindergarten classes had most of their students consistently demonstrating the necessary pre-literacy skills at the start of this school year. Clearly, more of our young children are not prepared to start and succeed in school. Money through this bill will help our economically challenged families with young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council

COMMENTS IN STRONG SUPPORT
SB 935 SD1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing : February 25, 2011 9:00 AM Conf Room 211

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

Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Thomas and Gloria Huber
46-291 Auna Street
Kaneohe HI 96744
Contact: 808 235 1437 hubert001@hawaii.rr.com

Re: SB 935 HD1
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

We are in STRONG SUPPORT of the purposes of SB 935 HD1, which would continue the appropriation of funds from the emergency and budget reserve fund for a variety of essential health and human services purposes.

We urgently request that the Bill, as it goes forward, include funds to continue services for our citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and in particular, Medicaid Waiver services. We are parents and guardians of a person with disabilities who receives services through Medicaid Waiver. These services were reduced in response to the budget crisis and have not been fully restored. The services were vital to helping our daughter live in the community in a safe and dignified manner. She cannot afford any further cuts, so it is necessary that funding be provided.

We appreciate all of the assistance that the State of Hawaii, including the Legislature, has provided for persons with developmental disabilities in the past and hope and trust that they will continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.