

LATE

Testimony on HB 661 HD 1
Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Presented to the House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 21, 2013

By Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, President and CEO
and McKay Schwenke, Vice President
Adult Friends for Youth

Chairman Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance, we are here to testify in support of HB 661 HD 1, relating to the emergency and budget reserve fund.

As administrators of Adult Friends for Youth, we have a combined work experience of over 50+ years in working with many of the most underprivileged youth in Hawaii whom many have labeled "lost causes". We have witnessed firsthand, the backlash of the economic crisis Hawaii and the nation has faced over the years. Our youth have become victims of families falling prey to losing jobs and suffering financially resulting in domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, gang involvement, drug and alcohol abuse and many other destructive behaviors. As a result, it has caused many of youth to become angry and thus destructive to themselves and others in the community.

Department of Human Services needs an emergency and budget reserve fund to appropriately deal with these issues before it becomes a larger problem than ever. Cutting back of services that meet the basic human needs of people will only result in dangerous and destructive situations which in turn will lead our state government to pay a greater price later. DHS deals with lives, please don't abandon those lives. Investing in any life is worth it.

We ask that you support HB 661HD1, which will help to develop an emergency and budget reserve fund. We need to get through these rainy days and back on to solid ground.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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HB661

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Garcia | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I support HB661, HD1 to provide for funding for child abuse and neglect social services.
Alan Garcia

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