

January 29, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2013; Conference Room 016, State Capitol

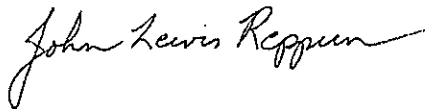
**Subject: Senate Bill No. 390, Relating to Human Services**

Aloha Senator, Committee Members:

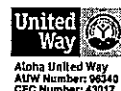
I regret that I am unable to attend, in person, but would like to add our **provide testimony in support** of the above-referenced bill. This bill, proposing much needed, re-kindled support for programs previously funded by TANF, will help to restore programs and services that were adversely impacted by the economic downturn in 2009. KEY Project, for which I am the current Executive Director, was one of those social service agencies affected by the loss of funds; others, with an even greater geographic and demographic reach were even more deeply impacted. The sum of this impact – while difficult to avoid – was a major tear in the safety net for communities across the State of Hawaii.

While we all struggle in a difficult economy, there is little question about the added value of funding at the “front end” of social service needs; an *ounce of prevention is (still) worth a pound of cure*. Our agency has focused, over most of its 45 years of existence on **prevention as opposed to remediation**. The needs of families who would qualify under TANF continue unabated in our area – from Kane`ohe to Kahuku – as is the case in other areas. This this measure, encouraged by your offices, has emerged as a priority of the Youth Summit makes it all the more significant. In order to achieve real success, the kinds of programs funded previously must continue and be supported over long cycles such that qualified staffing can be retained and to achieve consistent results. We invite legislative resolve to restore funding through this measure and to find the means to continue such funding for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

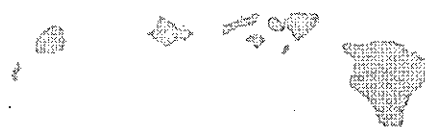


John L. Reppun  
Executive Director  
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**HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

To: Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Vice-Chair Josh Green, M.D.  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Hearing Date and Time: January 29, 2013, 1:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 016

RE: SB390 – SUPPORT

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The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence writes in support of SB390, which appropriates funds for the social services programs formerly funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

The nine emergency shelters statewide and domestic violence programs continue to see an increased demand for their services while funding has decreased. On one day in 2012, 176 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. Unfortunately, on the very same day, programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff that kept them from assisting 69 victims in need of services. When fewer community resources are available, victims become more isolated, risking their safety and recovery. Funding shortages have created greater and greater vulnerabilities in the network of services survivors need for their safety, escape, and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for recognizing the dire need of providing domestic violence survivors protection and services so that they are safe, supported and self-sufficient. We respectfully request that the committee pass SB390.

Thank you for your consideration.

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