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To: Senator Suzanne ChunOakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee
on Human Services

From: Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO
Child & Family Service

Hearing Date and Time: March 11, 2014, 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016

Re: HB1713—Relating to Aging

Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green and Committee members. I am Howard Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human services organization founded in 1899. Our mission is: **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.** Our organization touches the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's residents each year serving keiki to kupuna on every island. We provide a full continuum of services for seniors ranging from senior case management, caregiver support programs, health maintenance programs and a program for elders who are at risk of abuse or neglect. We have been providing these services in Honolulu County for over 30 years.

Child & Family Service supports HB1713 in its focus on addressing important funding for kupuna-related services. We especially support the proposed additional funding for Kupuna Care as well as the focus on long-term care and elder abuse.

We also have concerns about how both Kupuna Care funding is used and how the Aging Disability Resource Center(ADRC) will be implemented on Oahu. Let me highlight these concerns below:

We were distressed to read prior testimony by AARP in which they propose an amendment that would reinforce the exclusion of kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible from receiving services under Kupuna Care funding. The AARP testimony claims that violations occurred on Oahu in having some providers serving kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible. This is not accurate. For years the contracts as issued by the City & County of Honolulu through its Elderly Affairs Division did not require this exclusion. For some reason we still do not understand, the Executive

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Office on Aging is now insisting that this exclusion be complied with even though the Director of EOA has acknowledged publicly that this was a matter of "interpretation".

A more important concern we have with this proposed amendment is that kupuna who are on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible will not receive the services they need if referred to Medicaid. Child & Family Service, for example, has been complying with this new exclusion since July 2013 so we are turning away seniors on Medicaid or who are Medicaid eligible and we know that the Senior Case Management Services we provide are not covered by Medicaid. Such seniors will not be able to receive non-medical transportation or in most cases, meals. Kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible are some of the most vulnerable kupuna in our community, and excluding Medicaid and Medicaid eligible elders from the services several Kupuna Care organizations provide, is creating a significant and unnecessary gap in services for our aging population. How does it make sense to deny services to the most vulnerable seniors who are actually the poorest of all?

That is why we have been advocating with other kupuna providers to try to address this problem and we appreciate the efforts of Senator Chun Oakland to convene all the players to hopefully resolve this matter. We don't need the proposed AARP amendment. We need to find a solution that will ensure the most vulnerable elders will get the services they need.

We also support the ADRC as a potentially great approach to service delivery for seniors and the disabled, but we have strong questions about how this will be implemented on Oahu. We cannot have a model that works well for the Neighbor Islands and expect that it can just be replicated on Oahu. We need an Oahu-centric approach to the development of the ADRC that supports existing private providers of services to seniors and the disabled and recognizes that what works on Maui or on Kauai will not necessarily work on Oahu, especially with the huge difference in numbers who would be served.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With Aloha,

Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO, Child & Family Service