

HB 1371



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
April 2, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1371 HD1 SD1– RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health (DOH) and Human Services.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. This bill directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other Federal stimulus acts for health care programs.

We appreciate the Legislature's inclusion of various health and human service programs and services into this bill. We recognize the importance of each program as it represents specific targeted groups of an array of the health and human service delivery system. The Council is directly involved with the following areas that are included in the bill:

1. Respite services
2. Early Intervention services
3. Healthy Start services
4. Aging and Disability Resource Center
5. DD Medicaid Waiver services
6. Adult Dental services

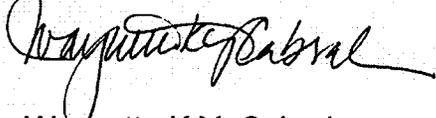
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Page 2
April 2, 2009

The passage of this bill would provide critical support to our safety net programs and services to our most vulnerable population during this economic crisis. We understand this bill is a work in progress and all appropriation amounts are subject to actual funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Council applauds the Legislature's initiative to sustain vital safety net services for Hawaii's children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB 1371, HD 1, SD 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

April 2, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on Section 1(a) of this
2 measure. We defer to the Department of Human Services (DHS) on Section 1(b).

3 **Fiscal Implications:**

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure directs funding provided by the American Recovery and
5 Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Public Law 111-5. The bill addresses both Department of Health
6 and Department of Human Services programs. We offer the following comments on DOH programs
7 and services:

8 Community health centers for the uninsured – all ARRA money for federally qualified health centers
9 goes directly to the health centers. There is no Governor or DOH pass through.

10 Respite services – no ARRA earmarked funding.

11 Substance abuse treatment – no ARRA earmarked funding.

12 Early intervention services – Hawaii will receive \$2,139,843 of ARRA funds to support costs associated
13 with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Money will be channeled
14 through existing agreements.

15 Aging and Disability Resource Center – no ARRA earmarked funding.

- 1 Kupuna Care – state funded program, no ARRA earmarked funding.
- 2 Healthy Aging Partnership – no ARRA earmarked funding.
- 3 Developmental disabilities Medicaid waiver services – increased FMAP will benefit this program.
- 4 Mental health services – no ARRA earmarked funding to generally support the provision of mental
- 5 health services.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

7



TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Thursday, April 2, 2009 **TIME:** 9:30 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

(For more information, please call Lili Funakoshi, Deputy Attorney General, at 587-3050.)

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General has two concerns regarding this measure.

First, it is unknown whether the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5 (ARRA), has funds appropriated to Hawaii for all of the listed purposes or programs found at page 1, lines 8-18, and page 2, lines 1 and 9-17. As such, the general wording of the bill may affect funding that we do know Hawaii is receiving. For instance, ARRA appropriates funds for domestic violence services under the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) that are being distributed to Hawaii through the U. S. Department of Justice and administered through the State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General. The wording of this bill appropriates the moneys allocated by ARRA, upon receipt, to fund the Department of Human Services (DHS) programs and services for domestic violence services, identifying DHS as the expending agency. The bill, as worded, may adversely impact the funds being distributed because there are specific requirements and restrictions for the VAWA funds allocated by ARRA, to which the Department of the Attorney General adheres in administering these moneys.

Second, the bill conflicts with ARRA because it appropriates money to fund disproportionate share hospital payments. Under section 5001(e)(1) of ARRA, the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage is not available for disproportionate share hospital payments. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have provided guidance to the states on ARRA in their report dated March 4, 2009. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services report specifically provides that the temporary increase in Medicaid disproportionate share hospital allotments for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 under section 5002 of ARRA is specifically not applicable to the State of Hawaii. In light of this, we recommend the deletion of the phrase "Disproportionate share hospital payments" at page 2, line 10, of the bill.

If this bill is passed, we respectfully request that it be amended to address these concerns.



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MĀNOA

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: HB1371 Health Care Programs, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Dear Senator Mercado-Kim, Members of the Committees:

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute at the U.H. School of Social Work, testifying in support of HB1371. The mission of the Institute is to promote best practice in prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

The proposed use of the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program funds made available under the federal stimulus program as recommended in this bill is the best use of these funds. It will channel funds into programs which can then seek reimbursement through federal matching Medicaid dollars, which will have a multiplier effect. We appreciate the foresight of the legislature in developing this strategy for maximizing funding availability for the state.

The Healthy Start program is among those programs included in the bill as eligible and appropriate for funding through this mechanism. Our Institute is very concerned that the budget for this program has been completely eliminated, and strongly advocates that it be restored.

Healthy Start is a public health approach to working with families of newborns at risk for adverse childhood experiences, developmental problems and school failure by triaging for and connecting with these families at birth in hospitals across the state, and providing a range of family support services to strengthen families and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. The Institute of Medicine's Council on the Science of Early Childhood, headed by Pediatrician Jack Shonkoff and comprised of neuroscientists, developmental psychologists, economists and pediatricians, as well as the National Zero to Three organizations have published policy papers on current early childhood research, the importance of the first three years of life to healthy growth and development and the need to close the gap between what we know and what we do. From decades of research on early child development and early intervention services, it is known that parental nurturing is critical to promote healthy development, while excessive stress disrupts the architecture of the developing brain resulting in poor developmental outcomes.

Healthy Start is the only program in Hawaii that intervenes with high risk situations right from the start, to stabilize unsafe home situations before abuse or neglect occurs; promote positive parenting and a normal developmental trajectory. Other services respond after problems have started.

- **Healthy Start uses a holistic approach in working with high risk infants and toddlers, recognizing that development in all areas-emotional, physical and cognitive occur rapidly and are inter-dependent during this period.** It provides a range of interventions including risk reduction and promotion of safety protective factors, role modeling of positive parenting, a Nurturing curriculum, activities to promote age appropriate development, developmental screening and referrals, and linkage to health services. It assumes that it doesn't make sense to have separate efforts to address health, safety, developmental and protective issues for this age group. **Healthy Start's**

targeted, comprehensive approach is a major reason why it was quickly adopted across the country as Healthy Families America.

- **With current economic stresses on already overburdened families, this safety net for our most vulnerable infants and toddlers is more important than ever. .**

There are many reasons why support for Healthy Start should be restored.

1. Healthy Start is effective in averting adverse childhood experiences, stabilizing and strengthening families and child development.

- **Less than 1% of children are reported for abuse and neglect. Among these reports, most are reported as threatened harm, and Healthy Start or Enhanced Healthy Start continue to work with the families. I will share a few case examples.**

2. Healthy Start is cost effective; significant costs will result from eliminating the program.

- **A study conducted by University of Hawaii Economist David McClain found nearly a 3 to 1 cost benefit for Healthy Start over costs of child welfare and other short term services involved in abuse/neglect cases. (Blue Print for Change, 1995)**
- **The Department of Human Services currently estimates that child welfare related costs for high risk families not served preventively are about \$783,888 per family. Using this data and data from Johns Hopkins studies, if there had been no Healthy Start services in 2008, short term costs would total \$17.7 M, or nearly twice the annual program budget as of September, 2008.**

3. Economists studying the science of early childhood conclude that early intervention services like Healthy Start are critically important in assuring that dis-advantaged, high risk young children do not have adverse early experiences, that they arrive at school healthy and ready to learn and go on to succeed in life.

- **Experiences in the first years of life lay the foundation for future development, for better or worse. Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman notes that “while many young children are bathed in an atmosphere that promotes well being and learning, increasing number of children are not.” He states that we can tell by age five which children will and will not succeed in school and college. (NYT Op-ed, July 2009)**

Services like Healthy Start are critical to development of human capital. Early childhood experts and economists agree that children are our greatest resource and must be protected.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this bill. We hope that you will seriously consider the importance of Healthy Start both as a safety net and its crucial role in promoting healthy development and well-being of Hawaii’s most vulnerable keiki and ensure continuation of this program.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Executive Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to direct funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for health care programs.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) opposes this bill as its estimated \$15.6 million State general fund cost is not economically feasible at this time.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) temporarily increases the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for the period October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010. The FMAP is the percent of allowable expenditure reimbursed by the Federal government and requires a State share.

All Federal funds received because of the increased FMAP must be used for Medicaid allowable expenditures; due to the higher FMAP, fewer State funds are required to maintain a certain level of total funding. Therefore, State funds up to the amount supplanted by the increased Federal funds could be used to meet other State budgetary needs. The ARRA specifically states that these funds cannot be placed in a reserve or rain day fund, but does not prohibit other uses.

Given Hawaii's current fiscal situation, it is imprudent and unrealistic to expect that any of the State funds saved by the ARRA's increased FMAP would allow our State to pay for anything other than closing our deficits.

DHS defers to the Department of Health on Section 1(a) of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawaiipca.net

To: **The Senate Committee on Ways & Means**
The Hon. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Hon. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1371, HD 1, SD 1 **Relating to Health Care** **Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO** **April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m. agenda, Room 211**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly endorses this measure. We urge your support for the items included in this bill, which will add significant support to our fragile health care system. The amounts needed to replace funds slated for elimination in the Administration's budget include the following for each of the next two fiscal years.

Department of Health:

- Community health centers for the uninsured \$3.5 million (federal funds do not match state payments for this purpose). This serves approximately 20,000 people who are not eligible for Med-QUEST or private insurance.

Department of Human Services:

- Hawaii children health care program \$600,000 (federal funds do not match state payments for this purpose). This serves about 1,500 children who are not eligible for Med-QUEST and whose families cannot afford private insurance.
- Adult dental services \$2 million (the FMAP for this is approximately \$2.8 million). This is critical to support access to essential dental care for nearly 100,000 adults covered by Med-QUEST programs.
- Immigrant Health Initiative \$550,000 (federal funds do not match state payments for this purpose). This serves about 1,700 impoverished immigrants – mostly elderly or middle-aged – who do not qualify for Med-QUEST programs.
- Outstationed eligibility workers. This is comprised of three programs:
 - Outreach and enrollment services for adults qualified for public benefits \$125,000 (the FMAP is a very substantial 90%, or \$1,125,000).
 - Outreach and enrollment for children \$129,500 (the FMAP is \$129,500).
 - Outstationed workers at FQHCs and hospitals \$300,000 (the FMAP is \$300,000).



Testimony on HB 1371, Relating to Health Care

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Vice-Chair: Sen. Shan Tsutsui

April 2, 2009

Presented by Howard S. Garval, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Child & Family Service **strongly supports** HB 1371, Relating to Health Care for both human and economic reasons.

HB 1371 directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 or other federal stimulus acts for health care programs.

Programs that have been eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget like Healthy Start, Hawaii's premier child abuse prevention program, and programs that have been severely cut like adult mental health and services for the developmentally disabled are putting our vulnerable keiki, ohana, and those with mental health issues or developmental disabilities at increasing risk. We are already seeing significant increases in suicidal ideation among people we are serving as well as increased incidences of domestic violence. In addition to these worrisome trends, more families are requesting help for basic human needs; i.e. food, shelter, clothing, etc.

This bill proposes using ARRA funds to support programs like the ones mentioned above in addition to Kupuna Care and other programs that support our rapidly growing aging population in Hawaii. Funding for seniors has not kept pace with the increases in the aging population and we should do all we can to keep elders in the community and in their own homes for as long as possible. This makes good social and economic sense.

The state also has a great opportunity to achieve a multiplier effect by drawing down additional Medicaid reimbursement as the programs identified in this bill already can draw down Medicaid dollars. The Governor's 5 point plan for economic recovery and development includes the maximization of Federal

The Arc in Hawaii
3989 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu Hawaii 96816

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate

WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Statement in Strong Support of HB 1371 SD 1
Public Decision Making April 2, 2009 9:30 AM

Dear Senator Kim and Members of the Committee

The Arc in Hawaii strongly supports HB 1371 SD 1.

HB 1371 SD 1 would, among other important purposes, restore recent reductions in Medicaid waiver payments to a large number of persons with developmental disabilities.

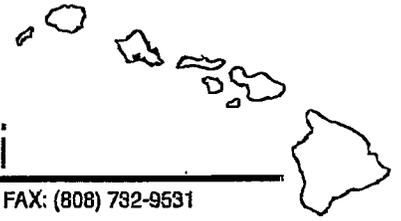
These reductions have left many of the people that we serve without vital services that they have come to rely upon. In a typical case, our clients have lost one out of their five regular days of Adult Day Health services. This has denied them of meaningful habilitation services and daily activities for a full day. In addition, finding alternate care for these persons on the service day that has been eliminated has caused a strain on the working families who must now care for these individuals on one work day per week.

The curtailment of service has adversely affected the health and safety of many of our clients.

The Arc in Hawaii serves over 170 persons with developmental disabilities, many on a 7-day 24-hour basis, more than 90 of whom receive Medicaid waiver services.

Thank you for considering this important Bill.

Thomas P. Huber
President



The **Arc** in Hawaii

3989 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD • HONOLULU, HI 96816-4413 • PHONE: (808) 737-7995 • FAX: (808) 732-9531
E-MAIL: Info@thearcinhawaii.org • WEBSITE: www.thearcinhawaii.org

Testimony In Support of H.B. 1371, H.D.1, S.D.1 Relating to Health Care

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Room 211

Dear Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and Committee Members:

I am Michael Tamanaha, interim Executive Director of The Arc in Hawaii, a nonprofit agency that provides direct supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in community settings throughout Oahu.

We strongly support the intent of H.B. 1371 which seeks to maintain funding for services essential for the well being of Hawaii's citizens with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Tamanaha".

Michael Tamanaha
Interim Executive Director
The Arc in Hawaii



Child & Family
SERVICE

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reimbursement. This bill presents the opportunity to do just that. Therefore, there is a strong financial rationale for supporting this bill.

Child & Family Service is Hawaii's oldest and largest human service nonprofit organization and we touch the lives of over 40,000 people in Hawaii each year. We have already absorbed substantial cuts to our human service programs. This has not only led to employee layoffs who join the ranks of the unemployed, but it also means less people who need our services are going to be able to receive help. For many of the most vulnerable people we serve, and Child & Family Service is known for working with some of the most at risk populations, the withdrawal of services pushes families already on the edge over the brink. We are very concerned about the welfare of the people of Hawaii and strongly support this measure because it will help prevent more serious erosion of the services that are desperately needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I urge the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to pass this measure.

Mahalo.

Howard Garval, MSW



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

HB1371 HD1 Relating to Health Care
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui

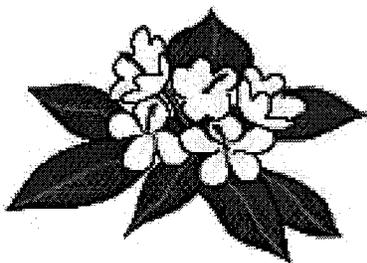
COMMENTS

I am commenting for Kokua Council whose mission is to advocate for the elderly and those who need help in advocating for themselves and for PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

We believe these funds which directs funding from the Federal Government's economic stimulus package to be used towards healthcare programs is providing funds for already seriously under-funded, overburdened services.

These funds must not be redirected to any other purposes.

Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair
597-8838



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

April 2, 2009

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Mr. Steve Laracuento, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Paul Ban, *Liaison
to the Superintendent*
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Mary Ellis
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Martha Guinan
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Mr. John Hinkle
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. June Motokawa
Ms. Kristy Nishimura
Ms. Connie Perry
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. August Suehiro
Ms. Judy Tonda
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Mr. Duane Yee
Mr. Shawn Yoshimoto

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1371 HD 1, SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Mercado Kim 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 the intent** of HB 1371 HD 1, SD1. Our primary focus is on the provision of appropriate educational services for children with disabilities, and therefore we applaud the use of stimulus funds to ensure that infants and toddlers with disabilities have access to early intervention services.

SEAC also appreciates the inclusion of monies to counteract the devastating cuts to the Department of Health Respite Fund and the Medicaid Waiver Developmental Disabilities Program. Respite is the number one family support service desired by families of children with disabilities. Intermittent breaks from care-giving give parents more energy and opportunity to be more involved in their child's education. The Medicaid Waiver for Developmental Disabilities is another necessary support that can compliment a student's educational program by reinforcing independent living skills and job coaching for students who are transitioning from high school into employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



Senator Sakamoto
HB 87, HD2
March 23, 2009
Page 2

Gina Williams

From: Karen Cardenas [adminkcardenas@pacthawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 5:16 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 741 -- Relating to Children from Haaheo.doc

Please submit our testimony to WAM Committee, Room 210.

**TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means**

**Senator Shan S. Tsutsui
Vice-Chair, Committee on Ways and Means**

**FROM: Ruthann Quitiquit
President & CEO
Parents And Children Together**

DATE: April 1, 2009

**SUBJECT: HB 1371, HD1, SD1
A Bill for an Act Relating to Health Care**

My name is Ruthann Quitiquit. As the CEO of Parents And Children Together, I strongly urge you to support HB 1371, HD1, SD1, a bill which directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to health care and other related programs.

The ARRA temporarily increases the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage of Medicaid (FMAP) funds coming into the State of Hawaii from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010. This infusion of new Medicaid funds will allow the State to continue to fund programs that have been eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget. These programs include Healthy Start, which is a premier child abuse prevention program and programs that support victims of domestic violence to name just a few.

We are deeply concerned regarding the Governor's plan to utilize all of the additional FMAP funds that are available through the ARRA for the State's deficit and none of it to provide actual health and related services for Hawaii's needy residents.

We truly understand the difficult position the Governor is in regarding balancing the State budget. However, balancing the budget should not be done on the backs of the poor, needy and Hawaii's most high risk populations.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

AFT Retirees
HGEA Retirees
HSTA – Retired
ILWU Retirees
Kokua Council
Machinists Union Retirees
UPW Retirees
ADA/Hawaii
Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition

(Submitted by email to: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov March 31, 2009)

Statement of Al Hamai, President, Supporting HB 1371, HD1, SD 1, Relating to
Health

Hearing of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 2, 2008, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 211

Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and
Members of the Committee,

HARA concurs with HB1371, as amended, and reiterates its strong support for HB 1371, HD1, SD1. HARA has nine affiliates, listed above, representing 21,000 seniors and community members.

HB 1371, HD1, SD1 directs a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other federal stimulus acts for essential health Care and human services and programs in our state, including Kupuna Care, respite services, increased Medicaid reimbursements, children's health care program, Aging and Disability Resource Center and other essential programs and services.

We believe that allocating funds from the federal stimulus legislation for meeting the health care and human services needs of our people, who really need these services and program, is not only appropriate but also a very prudent public policy decision for our state.

HARA urges your Committee to approve HB 1371, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo.

HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a trusted source of information for decision-makers.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Conference Room 211
April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Supporting HB 1371 HD 1 SD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 1371 HD 1 SD 1, which ensures that funds from the federal economic stimulus package for certain health care programs are expended for those programs. The bill also ensures that State funding for these programs shall not be reduced or replaced by the federal stimulus funds.

The economic challenges facing our state's hospitals, long term care, home care and hospice providers are well documented in the annual report prepared by Ernst and Young that details the financial challenges facing the health care industry in Hawaii. Copies of this report are available on our website at www.hah.org. HB 1371 HD 1 SD 1 seeks to help stabilize the financial condition of the health care system.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports HB 1371 HD 1 SD 1.

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Wanda Villareal, Director of Developmental Disabilities Services
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: April 2, 2009

Re: **Comments in Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care**

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (“Goodwill”) submits the following comments in support of House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1. Goodwill receives funding from the Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division (“DOH-DDD”) via a DHS Medicaid Waiver Contract to operate Adult Day Health and Personal Assistance/Habilitation programs for individuals with significant developmental disabilities on Oahu and in East Hawaii (Hilo). Participants in Goodwill’s programs and their families are Medicaid Waiver recipients who have limited socioeconomic resources. Waiver programs are essential for the public health, safety, welfare and education of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The projected budget shortfall for developmental disabilities services in the current fiscal year resulted in DOH-DDD mandating that individuals in Medicaid Waiver programs reduce services by 15% or greater, depending on the individual or families’ utilization rates, effective February 1, 2009. Individuals and families were forced to immediately reduce critical services and necessary programs, such as those operated by Goodwill. In some cases, families are choosing between taking a shift at their jobs or caring for their dependent disabled family member creating more difficult economic circumstances for families.

In addition, since services have been reduced, Goodwill has also felt the effects resulting in our need to cut back our staff who provide direct service hours in our Waiver programs, and experienced employees have been laid off.

Goodwill is in strong support of House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1. The federal fund allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts should be used for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver services which are essential for the health, safety, welfare and education of individuals with developmental disabilities. The DOH-DDD’s mandated budget reductions should be reversed as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity.

HMSA



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of Hawaii

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April 2, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 317 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Mobile Medical Care

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 317 HD1 SD1.

HMSA is dedicated to ensuring that all of our members are able to access the care they need, when they need it. We support initiatives to increase the ability of individuals who are in underserved areas to access appropriate services. Some rural areas on our neighbor islands lack the facilities to provide appropriate levels of medical care. This is especially true of the communities of Ka'u and Upper Puna which are directly affected by volcanic emissions.

This measure would authorize the use of existing federal funds to be used for a mobile care unit to provide medical care to some of the more rural areas of the Big Island. This unit would undoubtedly save lives by providing timely access to care. We respectfully urge the committee to look favorably upon this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations

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

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2009 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: House Bill 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting House Bill 1371, HD1, SD1, Relating to health Care.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A) is the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We support this bill and in particular, are very pleased to see an appropriation for Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid Waiver services, as well as Respite Services. We believe that part of the fiscal problems facing the DD Division have been somewhat self inflicted by the Administration. For the past several years, they have been budgeting year to year with a heightened dependence on emergency appropriations. Last year, the Division requested a larger base budget than they were permitted to seek from the legislature by the Governor. At that time, they were told that if they ran short of funds, they should simply seek another emergency appropriation. However, this year, the Governor has instructed them they cannot seek that emergency appropriation. That is why they are in the fiscal predicament they face and must cut services.

This example illustrates the importance of securing a solid, accurately planned out, base budget. Recognizing that general funds will be stretched thin to support a variety of necessary and worthwhile efforts, we support this bill and the legislature's desire to use the funds allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for these purposes. We also support the legislature in its attempt to direct the Administration to actually spend these funds. In light of the statements by the Governor and the Director

of Human Services that that they intend to take the FMAP funds which were intended to augment the Medicaid program and place them in the general fund, it is more important than ever that the legislature oversee the expenditures of this Administration to ensure that federal funds are being expended on their intended purpose.

We are also pleased to see funds included for respite care. Caregiver burnout is a well recognized phenomenon in these cases. This is where respite care proves to be invaluable as it provides an opportunity for the caregiver to either perform other essential chores or simply avail themselves of a brief time out so they can rejuvenate themselves. This money is extremely well spent from a quality of life and economic perspective.

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



HAWAII'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
HAWAII'S CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM





Administrative Offices
710 Green Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
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www.eastersealshawaii.org

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March 31, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: COMMENTS for HB 1371 HD1 SD1- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Decision Making: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways and Means Committee), Conference Room 211

Dear Senator Kim:

I am submitting comments in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for "safety net" services of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite and DD Division DD/MR Waiver***.

The recent cuts in the MR/DD Waiver program have made an already difficult economic year even more challenging for those most in need. These program cuts have not only affected our participants and families, but have also resulted in a reduction of Easter Seals Hawaii Staff.

If federal funds allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present comments for **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 529-1700, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

John F. Howell
President & CEO
Easter Seals Hawaii



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0003
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0055
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 2, 2009

H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 –
RELATING
TO HEALTH CARE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. As drafted, H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 requires that federal funding through the economic stimulus package is directed to finance a wide variety of programs in the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The federal economic stimulus funds are to be expended by those departments.

The bill also directs the DOH and DHS to maintain the level of state general funds appropriated for these programs during the 2008-09 fiscal year and for the next two fiscal years (2009-10 and 2010-2011). The general fund appropriation is not to be either replaced by the federal funds received through the economic stimulus package, or decreased because of the availability of the federal funds appropriated under this legislation.

The effectiveness of the recent federal economic stimulus legislation will depend in large part upon how well state and local governments use these funds for their intended purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



SECOH

SUPPORTING EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS OF HAWAII

TO: Donna Mercado Kim, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Sandra J. Yoro, Executive Director, SECOH
April 1, 2009

RE: Support of H.B. 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Decision Making Thursday, April 2, 2009 9:30 a.m.

SECOH (Special Education Center of Hawaii), is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services and supports to people with developmental disabilities, or acquired disabilities due to aging or head injuries.

We strongly **SUPPORT H.B. 1371 HD1, SD1**, which allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to maintain services that protect the health and welfare of Hawaii's vulnerable populations. Specifically, we support the allocations to restore funding and services to the State of Hawaii Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH-DDD) Developmentally Disabled/Mental Retardation (DD/MR) Medicaid Waiver program, the DOH Respite program and the DOH Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) program. **These programs were recently eliminated or reduced leaving people with severe intellectual and physical disabilities and their families to fend for themselves as they watch the programs designed to protect them destroy them.**

The elimination or reduction in services has left the majority of our customers 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. **Consequently many of our family members and primary care providers albeit devastating are considering out-of-home residential placement of their loved ones into long-term care facilities, which this program was designed to prevent.**

Hawaii's citizens with developmental disabilities due to no fault of their own are an extremely intellectually, physically, and economically vulnerable population. These programs are vital to the survival and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in our society. Our disability service sector has worked tirelessly for the last twenty years to build the DD/MR home and community based waiver program so we could close the state institution Waimano Training School and Hospital and support people with disabilities to have meaningful lives in an inclusive society. **We must not put the lives of these people in jeopardy of institutionalization again.** We have made to much progress to throw it all way.

An appropriation to restore these programs and services at previously prescribed levels will ensure basic health and safety protections and support people with disabilities to live full and meaningful lives. **I respectfully request and encourage your committee to PASS H.B. 1371 HD 1, SD1 Relating to Health Care. Thank you for your consideration.**



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

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

DATE of Hearing: Thursday April 2, 2009
9:30 a.m., Room 211

SUBJECT: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1371, S.D.1

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui 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 support of HB1371, S.D.1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE and request that FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS BE ADDED for funding through the Department of Health.**

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.

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.

SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE HEALTHY START: Losing one's job in many families with young infants adds tremendous stress. Programs such as Healthy Start play a critical role, pro actively, in facilitating positive parenting in stressful times and has been proven to prevent child abuse. Of the 17,000 births a year in Hawaii, about 4,000 babies and their families are screened and assessed to be offered Family Support Services.

SUPPORT FOR SENIOR CENTERS, KUPUNA CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICES: 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.

The decision of the State of Hawaii to direct all Stimulus FMAP (Medicaid) funds to address the State deficit and not use any of these funds toward provision of actual Medicaid services will have tremendous impact on vulnerable populations unless funding is made available through this bill.

We ask that the Committee consider adding **support for the following senior centers:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Catholic Charities Hawai'i	\$337,000
Kapahulu Center	\$100,000
Moiliili <u>Community</u> Center	\$125,000
Waikiki Community Center	\$120,000

SUPPORT FOR SAFE AND SOUND PROGRAM: We also ask you to consider continue funding for the Safe and Sound Program. The Safe and Sound Program provides treatment for sexually reactive youth (i.e. youth below the age of 12 who are acting out sexually as a result of their own victimization). This is one of the only programs in the State of Hawai'i aimed at providing services to these youth, who without treatment may go on to become adjudicated juvenile and adult sex offenders. Closing this gap in services helps to decrease the number of children who suffer the traumatizing impact of childhood sex abuse by older youths.

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. I strongly urge your committee to pass HB 1371, S.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 535-0889 or swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCILS OF HAWAII**

c/o Community Children's Council Office

1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813

TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

Re: HB 1371

Senator Mercado Kim and members of the Committee

The 17 Community Children's Councils of Hawaii whole heartedly support HB 1371 and urges its passage.

Our stakeholder members of the local CCCs in rural and urban communities are acutely aware of the critical need for these monies and the services which they would provide to our families and the ohana which supports them. This "safety net" appropriation provides support for:

Respite funds enabling families to have some relief from the often demanding care needed by their children.

Healthy Start has proven an effective deterrent to the need for more extensive services as the child ages. Programs which offer early intervention are often cut when the services they provide are designed to prevent much more extensive, expensive services at a later time in the child's life.

Head Start funds provide integrated services to students with disabilities in community settings keeping them in their neighborhoods where their social and educational needs are met in their natural environment.

Some of our families benefit directly from the DD Division supporting their disabled children.

Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Respectfully,

Tom smith, CCC Legislative Chair
(signatures on file with the CCCO)

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
 Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
 Phone 808.681.3500
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Bill No: HB 1371	Title: Relating to the Emergency Reserve Fund
Committee: <u>COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS</u> Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair	Hearing Date/Time: DATE: Thursday April 2, 2009 TIME: 9:30 a.m. PLACE: Conference Room 211 State Capitol
Submitted by: Name: Valorie Taylor Title: Gerontology Program Director Child and Family Service	Contact Information: Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
Testimony in: (X) SUPPORT () OPPOSITION of proposed bill.	

We support providing funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts for health care programs.

The mission of Child and Family Service is to Strengthen Families and foster the healthy development of children. We do this by providing services from our youngest Keiki to our oldest Kupuna. Hawaii's strength comes from its `Ohana which includes our elders. We believe that supporting our seniors will also help us to stabilize our economy by preventing premature institutionalization which in turn will increase the state dollars needed to pay for long term care for our Kupuna.

In Valuing the Invaluable: The Economic Value of Family Caregiving, 2008 Update, a study conducted by the AARP Public Policy Institute, found the value of caregiving at \$1.25 billion in Hawaii. Caregivers who do not have access to adequate support can suffer from emotional and physical exhaustion. This can in turn lead to inadequate care, abuse or neglect of the senior and sometimes premature institutionalization. The cost of this care continues to rise as the number of individuals needing care increase. If these costs were shifted to health insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, it would dramatically increase health care costs and this increase would impact us all.

The Kupuna Care Program started in 1999 provides a safety net for our frail, isolated and low income seniors. Without this net of protection our seniors face continued decline, hospitalization and institutionalization.

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

In 2008 Kupuna Care Services assisted 9,253 individuals in Hawaii. The program is cost effective. In 2008 voluntary contributions from our low income clients accounted for almost 16% of the Kupuna Care expenditures. In addition Kupuna Care Programs utilize volunteers. Lanakila MOW uses 1,344 volunteers who provide 24,543 hours of service delivering meals. The value of this service is \$184,075 and without it a full 2/3 of the meals would not be delivered.

The wait list for services has grown by almost 14% in one year. Currently there are 451 seniors who are on the list. Some are placed or die before services can be delivered.

The current clients are in need of more services. Can you imagine only receiving 2-3 meals a week (121 meals per year) delivered to your home? What do you do for meals the other 4-5 days? Some would say to stretch those meals to cover the other days – definitely not enough to sustain them. How about receiving only 1-2 hours per week of personal care/ bathing (68 hours per year), only 1 one way trip transport per week (56 one way trips per year), 4 hours of chore service per year or 17 hours of case management per year. As you can see, the assistance provided by the Kupuna Care Program falls short of the needs of our clients.

We have also struggled to do more with less. The state funding decreased from 83 cents to 75 cents for every dollar spent on services. Agencies often pick up the cost for providing services when the funds run out. This places additional burden on the agencies. Case Managers have difficulty stabilizing clients due to lack of services available. The Service Providers continue to limit outreach to the community so as not to build a false expectation. This can result in an underestimation of need, however the choice is between that and building a false expectation in the community that services are available.

Evidenced-based studies have reported that early intervention is the key to better outcomes for seniors requiring supportive services to remain in their community. A 2002 study reported in *The Gerontologist*, “Effects of a Community-Based Early Intervention Program on the Subjective Well-Being, Institutionalization, and Mortality of Low-Income Elders”, “those elders who received the intervention (case management) had significantly higher subjective well-being and were less likely to be institutionalized or die than those in a comparison group (remained on waiting lists for case management) across the 18-month period.” The study states that the implications of the results are that they “make a strong case for the importance of community-based programs to the well-being of elders”.



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

HB1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui

April 2 at 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211.

COMMENTS

I am sending comments for Kokua Council whose mission is to advocate for the elderly and those who need help in advocating for themselves and for PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My comment does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

We believe these funds which directs funding from the Federal Government' economic stimulus package to be used towards healthcare programs is providing funds for already seriously under-funded, overburdened services.

These funds must not be redirected to any other purposes.

Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair

597-8838

Hawaii Waiver Providers Association

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•The Arc of Hilo

•The Arc of Kauai

•The Arc of Kona

•The Arc of Maui County

•The Institute for Family Enrichment

April 2, 2009

Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

State Capitol, Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPA) is a statewide association comprised of 20 Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Service Providers affording leadership to collaborate and shape the service system to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Founded in 2001, HWPA's mission is to provide the necessary resources to develop, strengthen, and attain the highest standards of excellence for the developmental disabilities community.

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association ("HWPA") submits comments in strong support of House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1.

The Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division's ("DOH-DDD") projected budget shortfall for developmental disabilities services in the current fiscal year resulted in immediate mandated budget reductions. Approximately 2,500 individuals statewide with significant disabilities and limited socioeconomic resources were impacted. Families and established human service providers who offer critical programs essential for the health, welfare and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities were also impacted.

Waiver programs are essential for the health, welfare and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities. The federal fund allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts should be used for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Services.

We humbly ask for your support of House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1 which provides for the return to established funding levels for critical programs and services for our most vulnerable population.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Wanda Villareal
President, Hawaii Waiver Providers Association

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: **HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care**

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub L 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts for health care programs.

POSITION: **PABEA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL.**

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

§ Maintaining health care programs is essential to the well-being of our citizens and also to avoiding more expensive conditions in the future. We therefore support funding for all the programs mentions in this bill;

- Support for the Kupuna Care Program, development of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and respite services are high priority for PABEA as well as the Kupuna Care Caucus of the Legislature. These programs assist in maintaining frail elderly persons in the community and avoiding more expensive institutional care.

We strongly urge your approval of this bill as a wise use of the available Federal funds to maintain the health well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I work with people with disabilities that have been dramatically affected by the reduction of hours in the DD/MR Waiver services. This reduction has not only strongly impacted families and participants but also employees who have taken a reduction in hours as a result. Families now face concern with who will care for their loved one with less service hours and employees face challenges with how they are going to pay their bills. Caring for an individual with a disability or multiple disabilities is challenging enough without the added burden this reduction has brought. People have had to focus more time and attention on how they will deal with the reduction instead of caring for another human being in a vulnerable situation.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 282-7042 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lori Lutu

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Hearing: 04-02-09 9:30 A.M.

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

Although Enhanced Healthy Start is an excellent program providing services to families **after** they have been identified with abuse and/or neglect and obviously very important to continue to support, it has a fundamental **difference** with the **Healthy Start Program** which works on prevention of child abuse and/or neglect by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

The State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program** modeled after nationally and internationally for its effectiveness works with low-income at-risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old. The **Healthy Start Program** is funded through the State's Department of Health and it has suffered deep cuts at the peril of non-existence. I humbly ask you to support provision for its continuity. We are counting for the viability of the program through federal support one being this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration to this important matter,

Cynthia Koziolas, M.A.
Director of Clinical Services
Maui Family Support Services
(808) 242-0900 x 233

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Hearing: 04-02-09 9:30 A.M.

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

I am in support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

Enhanced Healthy Start is an excellent program providing services to families **after** they have been identified with abuse and/or neglect and obviously very important to continue to support. However, my questions are why do we have to wait for a child to be beaten or neglected to receive the attention of the state system (Child Welfare Services) versus the **Healthy Start Program** which works on **prevention** of child abuse and/or neglect by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

The **Healthy Start Program** is funded through the State's Department of Health and it has suffered deep cuts at the peril of non-existence. Please support provision for its continuity. We are counting for the viability of the program through federal support one being this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration to this important matter,

Mei Amuro Sr.FAW
Maui Family Support Services
(808) 242-0900 x 275

kim2 - Arline

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 11:43 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: michaelmccormick@bestbuddies.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1371 on 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1371

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael McCormick
Organization: Best Buddies Hawaii
Address: 95 Mahalani St #9 Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 385-6846
E-mail: michaelmccormick@bestbuddies.org Submitted on: 3/31/2009

Comments:

As State Director for Best Buddie Hawaii I ask support for HB 1371.

Our organization is not affected by this bill but I am in direct contact with many parents of students that have an intellectual disability. They are really hurting due to the current economic situation and therefore need the help and assistance provided by this bill.

Michael McCormick
State Director, Best Buddies Hawaii
J.W. Cameron Center-95 Mahalani St. #9
Wailuku, HI 96753
(808) 385-6846 - 808) 875-1638 - fax
michaelmccormick@bestbuddies.org - email

kim2 - Arline

From: Tammy Ruiz [Tammy@mfss.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:58 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB1371HD1SD1RECOVERY

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Hearing: 04-02-09 9:30 A.M.

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

Although Enhanced Healthy Start is an excellent program providing services to families **after** they have been identified with abuse and/or neglect and obviously very important to continue to support, it has a fundamental **difference** with the **Healthy Start Program** which works on prevention of child abuse and/or neglect by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

It is critical family and mothers with newborn babies are informed and knowledgeable of infant growth and brain development and to develop a healthy environment at home to prevent repeated generations of domestic violence that leads to low self-esteem, lack of self worth and chronic illness and suicide. Please we are the voices for the babies and we are the support for every family in HS to develop a healthy lifestyle and environment. A 2000 study conducted by Felitti on "Adverse Childhood Experiences" showed that early intervention is essential

I humbly ask you to support provision for its continuity.
Children are our future. They deserve to have the opportunity for an excellent start in life.

The State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program** modeled after nationally and internationally for its effectiveness works with low-income at-risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old.

The **Healthy Start Program** is funded through the State's Department of Health and it has suffered deep cuts at the peril of non-existence. We are counting for the viability of the program through federal support one being this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration to this important matter,

Tammy Ruiz
Family Support Worker II
Maui Family Support Services
(808) 242-0900 x 249

Tammy Ruiz

The Mission of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths.

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kim2 - Arline

From: Todd MacFarlane [tmacfarlane@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB1371 HD1 SD1

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB1371 HD1 SD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.
Report Title: Health Care Programs; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
Description: Directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts for health care programs. (SD1)

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

PLEASE pass **HB 1371 HD1 SD1** as health care programs are in need of support, in particular the State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program**. The Healthy Start program identifies high risk families with very young children between the ages of zero and three years old and provides home visiting services to them. It helps break the chain of child abuse. The Healthy Start Program teaches parenting skills, ensures the babies are receiving regular medical care including immunizations, identifies areas where a family may need more help and collaborates with other community resources to make sure the needed help is received.

The Healthy Start Program is funded through the State Department of Health and has already received deep funding cuts this year. Providers are struggling to continue to serve as many families as they can while being told they must cut the number served drastically to stay within the new budget. Please, I respectfully ask you to approve this bill so that the Healthy Start Program may continue providing services to Hawaii's at-risk families and children.

Thank you!

Doris MacFarlane
2575 Ala Olu Place
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708
(808) 575-7478

kim4 - Elizabeth

From: Patty Paranada [Patty@mfss.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:54 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Zina Andrade
Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.gif

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM

Members of the WAM Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211

Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care

Hearing: 04-02-09 9:30 A.M.

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

When considering HB 1371 HD1 SD1 please keep in mind the State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program** modeled after nationwide and internationally for its effectiveness. The Healthy Start Program works with low-income at-risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old.

I am writing in regards to the Healthy Start Program, which currently has faced many budget cuts. Healthy Start is a program that has supported many families in the community and is still trying to stay "afloat,"

despite the many lay-offs and cut backs. We are hoping that the State of Hawaii will help to keep this wonderful and supportive program thriving, as many families, especially in these current times, need the help and support of an agency like Healthy Start. Our Prime Directive is to utilize our collective resources toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Our Mission is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths. Healthy Start has built an awesome reputation for itself and we are humbly asking for your support in helping to fund this program.

Mahalo,

Patty Paranada-(808)276-5163

Kahului , HI 96732

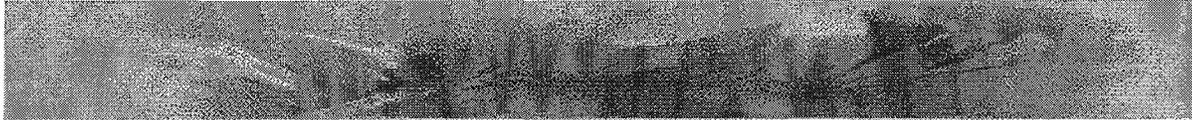
Patty P.

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kim4 - Elizabeth

From: Zina Andrade [Zina@mfss.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Attachments: sunbannA.gif; Sunflower Bkgrd.jpg

Importance: High



March 30, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol,
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Measure Title: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care
Hearing: 04/02/09 @ 9:30 am

Dear Senators Mercado Kim, Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1.

Because Healthy Start is a voluntary program, its credibility of being an essential service gets lost.

The fact that HS is a voluntary program should be one of the very reasons why this program should be included in the budget.

The Healthy Start program provides a voice for our most vulnerable population in society. Serving women and families that have newborns, infants and toddlers, the Healthy Start Family Support Workers provide home visiting services to help keep a safety net around the children from prenatal to 3 years of age.

By cutting Healthy Start services, you will be allowing those families who are at-risk to fall through the cracks. By removing the safety net of the Healthy Start program, Child Welfare Service and other short term services would be overloaded with high risk cases. ***Without Healthy Start, children are being harmed by the risks that could otherwise have been prevented. In an effort to balance the budget, our children will be at risk.***

So I ask you to think about the "FUTURE Of OUR KEIKI'S".....because Keiki matter!

A very concerned citizen and mother,

Zina Andrade
808.264.0925

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

This testimony is in **FERVENT SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1, which allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 and other federal stimulus intended to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. My purpose in supporting this bill is to support the allocations and to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

Please help protect the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these important programs by supporting HB 1371, HD1, SD1.

Thank you very much,
William D. Cadavona

Name: William Cadavona

Address: 94-241 Kaholo Street, Mililani, HI 96789

Phone No: 722-6014

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

As an employee of Alternative Care Services, Inc., we are committed to empowering our participants to live their lives with self-determination and dignity. Persons with mental and developmental disabilities care about the quality of their lives and having the freedom to choose how they wish to pursue their dreams. But they, like everyone else, cannot achieve those goals alone. They need the support of families, friends, colleagues, community and access to opportunities to develop their potential and become positive members of society. The concerted efforts from our employees at ACSI have a tremendous impact in the lives of our participants and their families. This is a sentiment shared by any person or agency that is privileged to work with the MR/DD population. President John F. Kennedy once said "Hawaii is what the rest of the world is striving to become." Please let our state be "that place" where people of all ethnicities, religion, creed *and abilities* are respected and valued members of society.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Samantha Cayetano

Address: Alternative Care Services, Inc. 2153 North King Street #303 Honolulu, 96819

Phone No: 848-2779

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

As an employee of Alternative Care Services, Inc., we are committed to empowering our participants to live their lives with self-determination and dignity. Persons with mental and developmental disabilities care about the quality of their lives and having the freedom to choose how they wish to pursue their dreams. But they, like everyone else, cannot achieve those goals alone. They need the support of families, friends, colleagues, community and access to opportunities to develop their potential and become positive members of society. The concerted efforts from our employees at ACSI have a tremendous impact in the lives of our participants and their families. This is a sentiment shared by any person or agency that is privileged to work with the MR/DD population. President John F. Kennedy once said "Hawaii is what the rest of the world is striving to become." Please let our state be "that place" where people of all ethnicities, religion, creed *and abilities* are respected and valued members of society.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Samantha Cayetano

Address: Alternative Care Services, Inc. 2153 North King Street #303 Honolulu, 96819

Phone No: 848-2779

kim2 - Arline

From: Rose Nakamura [projdana@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:47 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Health Care

Textimony in support of H.S. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Health Care

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009
Time: 9:30 am
Place: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

TO: The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Senator Shan S. Tsutui, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee of Ways and Means

FROM: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
Relating to Health Care

As Administrator of Project Dana, I wish to take this opportunity to strongly support H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Health Care. This particular Health Bill allocates a portion of federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub.L.111-5, or other federal stimulus acts to provide support to Kupuna Care to address the ever increasing numbers of elders needing long term care assistance. Additional funding is needed to provide the critical services to more elders.

Project Dana is a volunteer caregivers program that provides support services to homebound frail elders, disabled persons and family caregivers to ensure their well-being and independence. The Projects' mission is to recruit, train and mobilize volunteers to fill critical service gaps by working with community agencies and provide a continuum of services for Hawaii's needy population.

I am particularly concerned and fully support the appropriation measures of Kupuna Care, especially on Oahu. There is an ever growing wait list and this wait list has increased to almost 14% in one year. Many older adults have difficulty with daily living activities. They are isolated, shut-ins, lonely, helpless and need some assistance in coping with daily living. Kupuna Care is a program that is one of the most cost effective programs and it provides vital and critical services to the growing population of older adults. Every one living in Hawaii will be in this position.

I am also in support of funding the Aging and Disability Resoure Center's development and Senior Centers.

Aging in place is the desire for everyone in Hawaii and for many assistance of various nature i..e. case management, meals on wheels, transportation, respite, personal care, attendant care (volunteer services) is increasing due to a growing population of older adults and the decline of Hawaii's

economy.

Funding for H.B. 1371, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 is strongly in need of your support as health and human service programs are vital to the quality of life for Hawaii's Kupuna.

Thank you very much

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

This testimony is in **FERVENT SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1 which allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 and other federal stimulus intended to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. My purpose in supporting this bill is to support the allocations and to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

Please help protect the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these important programs by supporting HB 1371, HD1, SD1.

Thank you very much,
William D. Cadavona

Name:

kim2 - Arline

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:36 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: colleen@mfss.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1371 on 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1371

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colleen Welty
Organization: Individual
Address: 328 Hololani Str. Pukalani, HI
Phone: 808-572-0964
E-mail: colleen@mfss.org
Submitted on: 3/31/2009

Comments:

Aloha legislators, please designate these funds for Healthy Start through the Dept. of Health. Senator Yamasaki saw the great need for this program over 20 years ago, and the need has only intensified as young families face drugs and gangs and rising unemployment in our communities. Healthy Start gives them the education and skills to be better parents. Is there a more important job they do? Thank you sincerely for all your long hours of reading and listening and stretching the dollars to provide for our most vulnerable citizens, high risk babies and toddlers. Colleen Welty

March 31, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, WAM
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Support for HB1371 HD1 SD1 (Relating to Health Care – Report Title: Health Care Programs; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)

Hearing to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:30 am

Aloha WAM Committee Members,

I write this letter to urge you to please provide funding to Healthy Start with provisions from Bill HB1371 HD1 SD1 (Relating to Health Care) that directs funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or other federal stimulus acts for **health care programs**. I ask for your support in allocating funds from this Bill to Healthy Start programs. Healthy Start programs have been affected by major budget cuts and the much needed funds will help to assure the continuation of program services.

Healthy Start programs are in crucial need of funds to continue early intervention services to families. Researched evidence proves that Healthy Start programs/home visiting services prevent child abuse and neglect. The key word here is **prevent!** Healthy Start programs offer vital services to families at-risk and it would be a tragedy for families in need to not be able to access services provided by Healthy Start programs.

Your **SUPPORT** and consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Lots of Aloha,

Robin Dickson
(808) 878-6062

March 31, 2009

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1

Hearing: Tuesday, Thursday, April 2, 2009

Dear Honorable Colleen Hanabusa:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. The purpose of this measure is to allocate a portion of federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts to finance increased Medicaid reimbursements, disproportionate share hospital payments, and the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program.

Our son is 16 years old and diagnosed with Agenesis of corpus callosum, epilepsy, pervasive developmental delay, hypothyroidism, Costello syndrome, Septo Optic Dysplasia, Central Apnea and Obstructive Hypopnea, Gastrosophageal Reflux, Pectus Excavatum, hearing loss in left ear, Severe Mental Retardation. If our in-home services are cut, we will have to consider institutionalization. Please do not put us in the position placing our son outside of our home. With the help we currently receive, we are able to keep him at home with us, where he is loved and well cared for.

If this measure does not pass as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bissen, II

March 31, 2009

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1

Hearing: Tuesday, Thursday, April 2, 2009

Dear Honorable Colleen Hanabusa:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. The purpose of this measure is to allocate a portion of federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5, or other federal stimulus acts to finance increased Medicaid reimbursements, disproportionate share hospital payments, and the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program.

Our son is diagnosed with Autism. One of the characteristics of Autism is that they do not do well with change. My son suddenly had his services changed last week, with little warning. He keeps asking why he does not get to see his staff, Ken, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If this measure does not pass as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Kalinich

kim2 - Arline

From: Jennifer Hunt [jrayehunt@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 1371HD1 SD1

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Healthy Start Program. I understand that its funding may be cut, or that the program may eventually be eliminated all together.

I have been a part of HS since I was pregnant. That was over two years ago. I have received so much from the program. From counseling when I couldn't afford it, and desperately needed someone to mediate for my son's father and I before he moved away from Hawaii, to always having someone to help guide me toward the right resource (healthcare info, low income housing info, affordable daycare info, rental assistance info, parenting class info).

HS has been such a large and important part of mine and my son's life. I have learned so much about child development, and I have shared this info with friends of mine and in turn, I know that I have changed the lives of other parents and children, by helping them to be more aware of children's needs. I also feel that sometimes parents just need extra support, so that they can be at their best as parents. HS provides that support, and to people who need it the most....people who are typically under more stresses than most...single parents, new parents, parents with low income and little support in their lives.

I think that HS plays such a big role in early intervention....if I didn't have HS, I might not have received the support I needed to create a positive foundation with my son's father. Instead, HS helped me by allowing me to work with the clinical specialist, who helped me through numerous issues and hardships related to ironing things out with him. Today we have a weekly phone schedule, where he calls and talks to his son.

I have called and enrolled for welfare in the past, when I had little to no money to raise my son with. I found out the phone number and how to go about signing up, through HS. My family support worker helped me to sign up for a food assistance program, WIC, for food stamps, to receive extra food from the food bank, to know where to look for low-income housing, rental assistance, and a daycare that I can afford. On top of all of this, I have learned to be an excellent parent, and I can see the results in my two year old son, who is attentive, bright, and loving.

I have been so inspired by the HS program, that I have become a volunteer and a parent leader. I have organized a hiking group and a parent support group. I have helped with a free swap, where parents can come to shop for things they might be able to use at home. I want parents to know they are supported, because I believe this is the number one way that they can in turn be better parents.

I hope that you will consider giving the Healthy Start program the funding it deserves. It's the family's like mine, who appreciate it the most. And I am just one family. There are hundreds, thousands even, more.....and those children are our future. They deserve to have the opportunity for an excellent start in life, like my son Kin has.

Sincerely,
Jennifer R. Hunt

Quick access to Windows Live and your favorite MSN content with [Internet Explorer 8](#).

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I have been working with people with developmental disabilities for over 30 years and have seen changes great changes that have afforded them the basic rights that we all have. In the past few months, as budget reductions were implemented, we have seen families with members with developmental disabilities panic because they do not know how they will manage.

I have received numerous phone calls from families that have tried their hardest to keep their families together and are now unsure if this will be possible. One of the calls came from a sister who recently took her sister into her own home when their mother suddenly passed away. They are all having difficulty adjusting to this loss and are now faced with additional stress...budget cuts. Their adult sister receives Medicaid Waiver services to attend Adult Day Health program daily and now they are being told that this service must be reduced. This family wants to keep their sister with them but is having problems trying to figure things out to make it work for them. Family members must continue to work to support their own family and they don't know where to turn if sister cannot attend a day program on a daily basis.

Another frantic call came from a single working mother who must continue to work. They have no other family here on the island to help them. He son is not able to remain at home alone because he is not aware of the dangers around him and she worries that something will happen to him.

An elderly mother called to say that her son must have a program to go to daily. He wants to attend a day program to learn new things, be with his own friends and the reduced budget will not allow this. This mother reports that her son is angry and does not understand why this is being done and it has been difficult for her.

Many similar calls have been received and I don't know how to assist them. Everyone has been looking for other resources to help them but on such a small island and in these economic times there are none. Their goal is to keep their families intact, healthy and safe.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Merle Takashima

Name: Merle Takashima

Address: 3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: 821-6944

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I work with persons with developmental disabilities and seeing their faces every morning with their smiles, excitement and enthusiasm when they get to the Adult Day Health program is so rewarding and a blessing. They need this Bill to pass in order to keep their lives and happiness just as it is right now. It has been such a dramatic situation for them and their families cutting their hours of services because of funding.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Darrin Zablan

Address: 5338 Olopuu Street, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 652-7207

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I am an adult with developmental disabilities who lives with my parents who takes care of me because I cannot do that myself. I attend the Adult Day Health program and have some PA services so that my parents can go to work to support us. The program is helping me learn new things.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Randelle Lee

Name: Randelle Lee

Address: P.O. Box 341, Waimea, HI 96796

Phone No.: (808) 338-1207

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
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My Mother who took care of me passed away at Christmas and my sister was good enough to have me move into her house with her family so she can take care of me.

We are having a hard time, missing our Mom and trying to adjust to this new situation. When the Medicaid Waiver services were cut we worry about what will happen because my sister needs to work and I cannot stay alone.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Step

Name: Stephanie Bermoy

Address: 3573 Lili'oi Place, Lawa'i, HI 96765

Phone No.: (808) 332-7478

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I am a 58 year old with developmental disabilities who lives with my Mom who is getting old. Because of her physical health, my sisters have been helping us so I can continue to live with her, but they work and are busy with their own families too.

With the decrease in Medicaid Waiver services, it will be harder for my Mother to keep me at home if I cannot attend my Adult Day Health program daily.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

J a y P a d r e

Name: Jay Padre

Address: 5979 Puka Street, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 822-4518

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
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I am an adult developmental disabilities and attend an Adult Day Health program. At this program, I learn new things and have an exercise program so I can have good health. I have made my own friends at this program and am learning how to be with other people.

My parents both work and I am not able to stay at home alone because I cannot take of myself.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Carleen Yamamoto

Address: PO Box 485 Hanamaulu, HI 96715

Phone No.: 821-6944

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
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I am an adult with developmental disabilities and attend an Adult Day Health program. This program has helped me learn to make good choices and I have the chance to make new friends. They also teach me how to take care of myself when I exercise and do dental hygiene.

I need this program to keep me busy so that I do not hear voices that scare me.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Corina Florendo

Name: Corina Florendo

Address: PO Box 308 Kekaha, HI 96752

Phone No.: 337-9636

Wednesday, April 01, 2009

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Re: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care

I strongly support HB 1371 HD1 SD1.

I am a mother of a mentally and physically disabled young man. To cut 15% of services to this group of individuals who are defenseless and vulnerable could be devastating to a lot of families.

My son receives services under the DD Division DD/MR waiver. Because he is physically fragile, and needs around the clock supervision, his father is his sole care taker. Having someone so dedicated to my son has made a world of difference in my son's overall welfare. He's happy, healthy, very well taken care of and even making progress in his mental capacity. Granted it's not huge leaps and bounds but any miniscule progress is extremely rewarding in our situation.

Although my husband would be providing the same services to my son, regardless of the cuts in services, most families are not so lucky. Cuts in services to this population can be devastating.

I know it's difficult to fully appreciate our situation when you haven't been in our shoes, but please do your best to help those who cannot do anything for themselves.

Sincerely,



**Carol Down
83-5701 Kanele Street
Captain Cook, Hi. 96704**

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I work with Adults with developmental disabilities for the past 10 years now and have a great satisfaction when I am able to see the smiles on the clients' faces upon achieving their individual goals. The clients are happy to know that they have the opportunity to choose and to realize their goals in where they live, how they learn, where they work and who they play with. It would be a disappointing situation if this Bill does not pass. What will these individuals have left in their lives after taking away a major daily routine they have enjoyed for years? They look forward to future opportunities, think of the hardship placed upon their families and on those individuals living on their own.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Lynn Ovama
Address: 4519 Panihi Road, Kapa'a, HI 96746
Phone No.: (808) 651-2726

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I do not want to see our clients lose the opportunity in coming to the Adult Day Health program in Kapā'a. Also our clients may not get to see the friends they have made while attending the program. The clients would lose skills they might have attained becoming more dependent rather than independent which would put a strain on their families or care providers.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Marry Sunada

Address: 1080 Meneneilea Street, Apt. 207, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: (808) 651-1455

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I am an aide at an Adult Day Health program and work with persons with developmental disabilities. Cutting funding would have a tremendous effect on all of the individuals. Our clients worry about who will care for them if they are not able to attend the Adult Day Health program which places an extra burden on their families. Some clients still do not understand why their service needs to be cut which makes them apprehensive.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Donna Jerves

Address: P.O. Box 1241, Kapaa, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 651-7263

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I strongly believe this bill needs to be approved so individuals with Developmental Disabilities will be cared for properly by restoring services that are necessary for them to interact with the community, be safe, and take care of their health. To be involved in programs that are nurturing, and encourages independence, and interaction with others.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Suann Notebo

Address: 4574 Koa St. Kapaa, Hawaii, 96746

Phone No.: 808-823-8729

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Karin Fiedel
Address: 7074 Kaholalele Pl, Kapaa, HI 96746
Phone No.: (808) 631-9793

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I strongly support this bill to restore the necessary funding for services for individuals with Developmental Disabilities. They need these services to be able to interact and be safe within the community.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Lizann Vidinha

Name: _____

5867 Ahakea St. Kapaa, HI 96746

Address: _____

808-245-4132

Phone No.: _____

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I am an adult with developmental disabilities that attends Adult Day Health program. This is the place that I learn new things and can be with my friends.

I live with my Mother who works and my sister who goes to school and works. They help take care of me because I cannot do this myself.

I must be able to attend Adult Day Health program every day so I can still learn new things and my Mother can continue to work to support us.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Felipe

Name: Jason Felipe

Address: 3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: (808) 821-6944

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I live with my Mother who must work to support us. My sister also helps to take care of me. I attend Adult Day Health program and have PA services while my Mother works.

I cannot be left alone because I cannot take care of myself. In order for my Mother to work to support us I must have services to take care of me while she is working.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Jerry Carineo

Name: Jerry Carineo

Address: 3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: (808) 821-6944

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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I am a program aide at an Adult Day Health program. Being with the individual clients has been a very rewarding experience seeing how happy they are coming to program and learning new things while experiencing new and exciting things. It will be a hardship on the clients and their families should they no longer be able to attend the Adult Day Health program. Where will they go and what will the future have in store for them? This Bill is needed by these individuals who, in many cases, are unable to fend for themselves or speak for themselves. The benefit from this Bill speaks for itself.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Shonnie Lemn

Address: 1181 Kealoha Road, Apt. #1, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 651-9148

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I strongly support the bill stated above. My sister Stephanie lives with me since 12/24/08 which is when our mother died. Stephanie does not have any financial support, however she does receive \$1270.00 for food only from DHS. When she moved in with me we had beds dressers and or furniture or supplies that she needs. She is 54 yrs old and she sleeps on the floor on a folding mattress and keeps her clothes on the floor next to her so called bed. I do not have guardianship over Stephanie so if anything happens I cannot make decisions for her. I cannot afford an attorney. Stephanie cannot be left alone she needs supervision constantly. Please help!

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Charles Lemons Paden
Address: P.O. Box 1605 Koloa HI 96756
Phone No.: 651-7571

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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My brother, Eric Arakaki, is qualified for four days of Arc of Kauai services cut from the five that he previously had. The Arc at Hale Hahaione provides him with an excellent program that suits his needs and he enjoys the company of his fellow participants. Respite is also important for him as he gets to meet different people and gets out into the community with them. It would be nice to have this service at least twice monthly instead of once.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Susan Arakaki

Name: Susan Arakaki

Address: 2923 Nokol St. Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: 808-245-2307

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

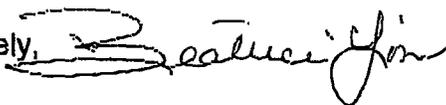
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We need these funds for programs to keep our disabled children in. My daughter depends on mom for all her needs. She needs help with everything, can't do anything for herself in bathing, dressing, feeding, communicating, food shopping even going to doctor appointments. With help from this program she can learn to do things for herself with assistance from P.A. help.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Beatrice & Janah Yim

Address: 4997 NONOU RD #APAA, HI 96746-1258

Phone No.: 1034-4651

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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These two programs support a population that are "Human beings" and through no fault of their own are not able to carry on "Normal Daily Activities."

Without supports which usually include assistants or special programs, they (our family members) are not safe. Can you imagine the frustration you would face if you were thirsty and for various reasons were not able to get a glass of water! What if you needed to use the BR or had a BR related accident and had NO supports - DANGER HAS NO MEANING!!!

we, the families of these individuals work towards keeping our loved ones HOME, SAFE, and HAPPY But WE NEED HELP! THANK YOU!!!

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Elizabeth G.S. Ludington
Address: P.O. Box 178 Koloa HI 96756
Phone No.: (808) 742-6842

kim2 - Arline

From: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka [lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 8:12 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1 for April 2, 2009 Senate WAM Committee meeting

I am an employee of the Department of Health and submitting this testimony as a private citizen. I am doing this on my own time. As a family member of an individual with a disability and an elderly parent in her 80's, I am in strong support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. The bill provides funds for "safety net" services to those individuals who are our most vulnerable citizens in Hawaii. I am also a public health educator by background and feel strongly that primary prevention is essential to help our young and old to maintain good health and be able to sustain a quality of health as we age. Many of the services that are identified in this current version of the bill are essential to keeping our individuals from having to utilize high cost medical treatment for advanced health problems. Therefore, I urge your support for this bill.

Thank you very much.

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka, MPH, CHES

kim2 - Arline

From: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka [lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 8:12 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1 for April 2, 2009 Senate WAM Committee meeting

I am an employee of the Department of Health and submitting this testimony as a private citizen. I am doing this on my own time. As a family member of an individual with a disability and an elderly parent in her 80's, I am in strong support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. The bill provides funds for "safety net" services to those individuals who are our most vulnerable citizens in Hawaii. I am also a public health educator by background and feel strongly that primary prevention is essential to help our young and old to maintain good health and be able to sustain a quality of health as we age. Many of the services that are identified in this current version of the bill are essential to keeping our individuals from having to utilize high cost medical treatment for advanced health problems. Therefore, I urge your support for this bill.

Thank you very much.

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka, MPH, CHES

April 01, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

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I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I work with people with developmental disabilities for the past 7 years. I enjoy being able to see the self pride in each individual while being able to achieve their goal at program. The thought of them not being able to attend these programs would be a shame...to have taken away their pride and joy they came to love.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Lucille Taniguchi

Address: PO Box 1663 Kapaa, HI 96746

Phone No.: 821-6944

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I'm a parent with a child with developmental disabilities. Should you act not to pass this Bill it would place a large burden upon the family. My son currently has limited services and without this Bill it would leave me no options except to leave my present employment to care for his needs. His loss would mean no opportunity to choose and the realization of his goals regarding living, learning working and playing. My son enjoys going to program to be with his friends. Ask yourself if you want to take away funding from those who have so little already?

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Anita S. Yoro
Address: P.O. Box 662247
Phone No: Hilo, HI 96766
Ph. No. - 245-5013

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I strongly support this bill because without these fundings. The clients would not have services, which provides them with community access, attend recreational activities, and achieve their goals.

Also the care providers and personal assistance would not be able to provide for their health, safety and happiness.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely, 

Name: Trudy DeSilva
Address: 6405 Kawaihau Road, Kapaa, HI. 96746
Phone No.: 845-4132

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I strongly support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1 or this bill especially to all those who cannot help on care themselves. mentally & physically. If they lost their services it might be worse than homeless & crimes in our community. Through my experience they need services in order to expose themselves to community access & treat them with respect & dignity. I support & feel bad especially those who are in the wheelchairs, bedridden & don't have a family to take care of them & also for their safety.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Shirley Negretto

Name: SHIRLEY NEGRETTO

Address: 4719 OPUKEA ST. LIHUE, KAUAI 96766

Phone No.: 241-1340

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

Our consumers needs constant and close supervision daily. Without these services more community problems such as crimes, accidents and their physical and mental conditions will worsen.

Without these funds, it has a great impact to our family live hood in our state.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Remedios B. Dujang
Address: 4000 Hoololepe St. Lihue HI 96761
Phone No.: 808. 245. 3782

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I strongly support this bill to restore the funding for individuals who received these benefits because without it, they lost their services and won't be able to achieved their goals in life and also their lives will be in danger and at risk due to down fall in their ability to access the community and be independent in the future.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Mercedee Mamea

Address: 4127 Mano St. Lihue HI. 96766

Phone No.: 845-4132

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I SUPPORT THIS BILL STRONGLY, BECAUSE IT DEALS WITH THE FUTURE OF OUR VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE. IMAGINE, IF IT WAS YOUR CHILD OR ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER BEING TOLD THAT THEY HAD TO REMAIN AT HOME ALL DAY, BECAUSE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH "FUNDING" TO ALLOW THEM TO LEAD NORMAL AND FULFILLING LIVES. THEY DESERVE TO ACCESS THEIR COMMUNITY FOR IT IS THEIRS, THEY ARE A HUGE PART OF IT. OUR CLIENTS, AS WELL AS THEIR PEERS, DESERVE TO EXPERIENCE ALL THE BEAUTY AND ACTIVITIES THAT A LOT OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED EACH AND EVERY DAY. LET THEM LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT, DON'T TAKE AWAY WHAT LITTLE THEY HAVE, GIVE THEM A CHANCE.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: NINA TAZARA

Address: 6424 AHOLE DR. KAPAA, HI 96746

Phone No.: 346-1555

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of HB 1371, HD1, SD1
Relating to Health Care

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1371, HD1, SD1. This bill allocates a portion of the federal funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5 or other federal stimulus acts to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to protect the health and welfare of Hawaii residents. Specifically, I am supporting the allocations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and Early Intervention Services.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. I BELIEVE THAT PARENTS OF THESE CONSUMERS DESERVE SOMEBODY TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR UNFORTUNATE KID/S IN ORDER FOR THEM TO WORK TO SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS, AND WITH RELATIVES TO THESE CONSUMERS, THEY NEED TO GO OUT, MINGLE W/ OTHER PEOPLE, BE ^{IN} THE GROUP, SAME CARE TO THEM. WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE IF THEY WILL BE JUST, ^{BE} ~~CONTINUED~~ @ HOME UNLESS THERE'S AN AGENCY THAT PROVIDE THEM SOMEBODY WHO CAN TAKE OF THEM.

If this allocation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: JEANALYN A. ALCADILY

Address: 2897 HAWAIIAN ST., LITHE HI 96744

Phone No.: 634-0489

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a sister of a person with a disability who has been able to access supports afforded by the MR/DD Waiver. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that her needs are being met and that she is safe. My sister needs routine to function and the loss of this routine would result in confusion and increased agitation for her. My sister also has a great bond with her community based provider and this bond is essential to continuity of care and helps her to increase her daily functioning. My sister also has alzheimer’s and Dementia and a disruption in her routine may worsen these disorders. Without these services my sister would not be able to be as active or involved in the community. Not only am I able to go to work knowing that my sister is safe, but with these services she is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 351-7508, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Peggy Maki

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a mother of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Through the DD waver program I am most grateful for services that my daughter receives. She is not home bound and is out in the community where she has opportunities to make friends, socialize, learn to make good choices, and participate in activities such as water exercise, country line dancing and stretching. With the services my daughter is like a plant that has the right environment and nutrients to grow.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 839-4912, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Janice Chang

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a sister of a person with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Without these services my sister would not be able to participate in community activities. Without these services she would not be able to get the help that she needs like being active and healthy within the community. Because my sister is able to have these services she is able to participate in meaningful activities within the community and live life like every other citizen.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 262-4515, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Silva

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a mother of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. I am a single parent and my income is all of the support that I have. If there are any more cuts in services I will have to stay home to take care of my child and we will suffer severe financial difficulty. My child has cerebral palsy and epilepsy and I know that her care takers are trained to handle a seizure if she has one. I know that because of these services she is safe and I am able to work because she can be safe with her care providers.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 551-5398, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Julie Pleasanton

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a guardian of a niece with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. These services are important because they teach her independent living skills.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 235-7621, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Brenda Abe

Monday, April 1, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 1371 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am (Senate Ways & Means Committee)

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF HB 1371 HD1 SD1. This bill includes appropriations for “safety net” services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and others.

I am a grandparent who has adopted my grandson with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. I am at the age where I cannot provide all of the supports that he needs and I cannot be as active with him as a young parent could be. The community based provide helps me to take my grandson to events and essential activities in his community. I want the hours to be restored for my grandson because he has very few hours of supports and when these hours are cut it makes a huge impact on his life. Without services my grandson would not be able to participate in the Special Olympics and would not be able to be actively involved in his community living life like everyone else. Without services my grandson would not have help and support to learn independent living skills. I believe that part of the money should go to the department of health to help provide services for the DD/MR population.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of HB 1371 HD1 SD1**. I can be reached at 625-9183, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Linda Cabael

kim2 - Arline

From: Mitch Berman [mmb246@clearwire.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 2:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Re: House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Please support House Bill 1371 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health Care being heard by the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m..

We are in dire need of "safety net" services on Maui. All of the DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver Program, Early Intervention services, Adult Dental Services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, mental health services, Kupuna care services, community health centers, and other services are so important. We are already seeing an increase in suicidal behavior from the cutback in mental health services. As the former therapist of the ACT Team, where we were able to stabilize many psychotic and distraught individuals, I am seeing many frightened clients who are again getting isolated and decompensating from the lack of services.

We are trying to handle some of it by private therapy. Please pass this bill.

Malama Pono and Mahalo,

Mitch Berman, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist