

**From:** Rosalee M. Puaoi  
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**Attention:** House of Representatives, Committee on Human Services  
Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair

Monday, February 2, 2009 at 8:15 am at the State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**RE: Support of HB1435**

Aloha Committee on Human Services, Chair Mizuno and Vice Chair Brower:

I am blessed to be able to SUPPORT HB1435. This bill will allow state employees to provide funding to the nonprofit organization of their choice. Thousands of state employees will be able to support Hawai'i nonprofits to provide their everyday services. Organizations include hula hālau, charter schools like Hālau Kū Mana, where 3 of my nieces and nephews attend and Nā Lei Naauao Alliance which supports 13 Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, Hawai'i organizations that provide much needed financial literacy, family services and economic development to Hawaiian communities.

The Hawai'i State Giving Campaign will build capacity for community organizations and build relationships with state workers and community leaders. This is an opportunity for your committee to provide support that will help organizations find sustainability in a very volatile economy. As a member of many nonprofit organizations I support HB1435 because it will allow donations to be made to the organizations that are in existence because of the support, leadership and passion from our communities.

Please pass HB1435.

February 1, 2009

**Representative John Mizuno, Chair**  
**Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair**  
**Members of the House Committee on Human Services**

Hearing Date & Time: Monday, February 2, 2009 at 8:15 am

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1435 – Hawaii State Giving Campaign

Mahalo for hearing the above referenced bill, and the opportunity to express support.

HB 1435 is truly legacy legislation that establishes, similar to the federal government, an open and fair process by which government employees may contribute to their favorite charities in Hawaii.

I am employed in Hawaii's nonprofit sector, and have the opportunity to witness every day, the amazing impact that community organizations have on families whether in the field of foster care, job creation and workforce development, affordable housing and foreclosure prevention, or in youth programming, perpetuating language and culture, caring for fishponds and special places, or investing in the education and mentorship of young leaders. Hawaii has an extraordinary spectrum of passionate and effective nonprofits around the state, indeed serving every district on every island. This legislation creates an opportunity for donor giving to support the powerful work in the nonprofit sector statewide.

The most important aspect of this legislation is that it honors state workers and honors their choices by making it possible for their individual philanthropy to address the charities that mean the most to them. Whether that charity is a halau hula where our children flourish, or a youth program on Maui where afterschool activities support a single parent, or a jobs program for disabled veterans, or a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding an ancient fishpond – this legislation honors the choices of individual state workers to invest in our state and our communities on their own terms and based on their own values.

I ask that you support HB 1435 and give every state worker the option and the choice to direct individual donations to the charities doing the work they value most.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing.

Robin Puanani Danner  
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Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement  
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January 30, 2009

To: Rep. John Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair and  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Annelle C. Amaral

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1435 Rel. to the Hawaii State Giving Campaign

Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing in support of HB 1435 Relating to the Hawaii State Giving Campaign. This bill establishes the only authorized solicitation of employees in the state workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It is an important step toward assisting the not-for-profit agencies of Hawaii to solicit support of the largest employer in the state to continue the work of their agencies. The bill creates a coordinating committee to determine the eligibility of charitable organizations that may apply to participate, creates a process for applications by charitable organizations, and rules and procedures to assure transparency and accountability of the process.

Since I left the employment of the Honolulu Police Department, I have always been involved with not-for-profit agencies. I sit on the Board of Directors of at least five not-for-profit agencies right now. I have been on staff to at least three not-for-profits. And I have always donated to the agencies I respect and support. I therefore know, firsthand, what difficulty nonprofits have in paying their bills and continuing to do their good work. This bill will go far to creating a potential income stream for agencies and lessen the burden of state government.

In the Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Honolulu Advertiser, the lead story referenced a survey of nonprofits. The story noted that 44% of Hawaii's non-profits have reduced their service hours. 48% of these agencies have imposed a hiring freeze. 31% have laid off direct service staff. 48% have laid off administrative staff. 73% of Hawaii's nonprofits are preparing for cuts in their next budget.

And in the face of these dire numbers...the headlines were "...lawmakers are warning nonprofits not to expect any money this year or next from a legislative grants program.."

Passage of HB 1435 provides Hawaii's nonprofits with the opportunity to make their case to state employees for their employee giving ...it allows for nonprofits to access to the largest employer donor program, and gives some hope to agencies that carry the load of serving the needs of our people. I urge you to pass HB 1435 and keep hope alive. Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing today.