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

March 3, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 739, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2009; 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 739, H.D. 1 is to detail how the Legislature directs the Department of Human Services to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, emphasizing child care services, work program contracts and related support services, the prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the purchase of service contracts for child protective services, information system maintenance, and administrative costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the social services block grant and child care development fund.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services supports the intent of this measure and has the following recommendation:

In Section 3, the measure proposes to appropriate \$34,000,000 in TANF funds towards cash assistance. The Department believes that this figure may only be reflecting the total annual cash assistance amount paid to eligible families and

does not include administrative and systems costs associated with eligibility determination, therefore the Department proposes the following language to amend Section 3:

“SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$44,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to provide monthly cash benefits to eligible families, and for associated eligibility determination costs.”

The Legislature's authorization of the spending of federal TANF funds as directed in this bill will enable the Department of Human Services to provide clients with monthly benefits to assist them with such essentials as food, shelter, and child care, as well as employment support and work-training and dependency diversion and poverty prevention.

The programs supported by these TANF funds, many through our private non-profit agency partners, are designed to help those with work challenges to find and maintain employment to promote self-reliance, responsibility, and family stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700
Fax: (808) 587-5734

March 3, 2009

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: HB739, HD1, RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO
NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

The Office of Youth Services strongly supports HB739, HD1 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families which directs the allocation of TANF funding for essential and worthwhile services for youth and families. In recent years, TANF funding has been used effectively to expand the ability of government and non-profit agencies to address teenage pregnancy and related issues through pregnancy education programs and prevention services. Such programs and services promote resilient youth and strong families and therefore, make a positive impact on the future of our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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March 2, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Members of the Human Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: HB 739, Relating to TANF

Dear Representative Oshiro:

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute testifying in support of HB 739.

This bill provides funding for a range of services aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect and increasing capacity for self-sufficiency. As such, the services are of great value for families and for the state in terms of protecting young children, helping people to help themselves and reducing future social and financial costs. reduced costs.

This bill does include both the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs. Healthy Start conducts risk assessments at all hospitals to identify families of newborns who are in need of support services to promote the safety, well-being and positive development of these young children. Families are referred to home visiting services which address risk factors, mentor parents in positive parenting skills and promote early childhood development. This is an unduplicated service; it is voluntary as are most health and social services. Enhanced Healthy Start provides services to families with infants after a report has been made to child welfare services. It also provides intensive home visiting services with similar activities and goals, but lacks pro-active hospital based case finding.

In this time of economic downturn, child abuse and domestic violence escalate. It is also much more difficult for individuals and families who are living on the margins to survive and move forward. These services will help many to become self sufficient.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration of allocating these funds as proposed.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Executive Director
The Hawaii Family Support Institute



Hearing date:
Tuesday, March
3, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
House Finance
Committee
Room 308

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Subject: **HB739 HD1: Appropriate temporary assistance for needy families funds and general revenue funds for the healthy start and enhanced healthy start programs, to maintain current services, to hire additional staff and for provider training.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

We support this bill.

Hawaii's Healthy Start program is regarded as foundational to our early learning system. The hospital screenings as well as the home visits are critical to the prevention of child abuse and neglect for Hawaii's families. Healthy Start also initiates vitally important parental engagement and training as to how the family can foster a child's early learning and healthy growth.

At a time when Hawaii's weakened economy is placing more stress on families, it is critical that programs such as Healthy Start not be eliminated. At a minimum, the maintenance of prevention programs is a must. Long-term studies show that if we do not support prevention, our state will have to pay more in social services and remedial education costs years from now as these children enter school, and eventually join the workforce and become parents.

Please protect our young children and support their healthy development.

Mahalo for your support.

For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502;
lchun@goodbeginnings.org

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Danielle Moskowitz, Vice President of Human Services
Laura Robertson, President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: March 3, 2009

Re: **Testimony in support of H.B. 739 HD1 – Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families**

We applaud the legislature for its leadership in the area of supporting workforce development. During times of financial challenge, employment is a key component of the community's economic safety net. As government supports building a strong dependable workforce, its citizens become self-sufficient releasing their dependence on government assistance.

In fact, employment strengthens communities at all levels. Working citizens provide tax revenues to the government and are able to purchase goods and services from community businesses. Businesses run at top-efficiency when fully staffed with trained and motivated employees. When its citizens are employed, government is able to re-direct tax revenues to provide fundamental community services rather than family/individual financial public assistance.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing educational and career development programs. Goodwill works with people who have employment barriers, including welfare dependency, economic and resource barriers, lack of education/work experience, illiteracy and disadvantaged youth. Last year, Goodwill served more than 9,400 individuals throughout the state in its career development and training programs and placed over 1,800 into jobs.

We appreciate the State's support in helping its economically disadvantaged citizens become trained for work and obtain assistance with job-search activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Testimony on HB 739 -RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

House Finance Committee

Chair: Rep. Marcus Oshiro Vice-Chair: Rep. Marilyn Lee

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

March 3, 2009, 4 p.m. Agenda #7, Room 308

Two of our most critical societal problems are child abuse and domestic violence. There is strong evidence that in economic downturns the rates of child abuse and family violence increase at a time when the resources to both prevent and treat these problems actually decrease. This is the "perfect storm" and a scary proposition that Hawaii faces as government grapples with a sizeable deficit in the state budget.

I am Howard Garval, President and CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest human service organization that touches the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's people each year. We provide a comprehensive continuum of services from child abuse prevention, family strengthening services, domestic violence intervention, services to help youth overcome a variety of emotional and behavioral problems, and programs that help our Kupuna to thrive in the community as long as possible and that provide support to their caregivers.

Child & Family Service supports HB 739 because it preserves services to families that help them stay in tact. With decreasing state funds, everything possible should be done to access alternative funds including Federal reimbursement like TANF. While last session the Legislature was concerned about protecting enough TANF funds in the reserve for cash assistance, the proposed use of TANF funds in HB 739 protects enough reserves for cash assistance and still continues to support services that meet the other three TANF purposes other than direct cash assistance: 2) Employment training programs to help families become self-sufficient; 3) Teen pregnancy education and prevention; and 4) Services that keep the family unit in tact.

Perhaps the best way to make the case for HB 739 is to look at what would happen if the TANF funded services go away. At Child & Family Service we already have experienced a 12% cut in FY 09 as part of the Department of Human Services' across-the-board cut to all TANF funded programs. This was the Administration's response to the Legislature's restriction of \$27.6 million to build up the cash reserve for cash assistance. This meant cuts to such child abuse prevention programs as Enhanced Healthy Start and Family Strengthening Services, reductions in funding for Domestic Violence Advocacy for TANF recipients who get a waiver from work requirements because of domestic violence, and reductions in teen pregnancy prevention. Without such services, the likelihood is great that incidents of child abuse and domestic violence will increase even without the likely increase due to the worsening economy. This will destabilize/disintegrate more families and the human, social, and financial costs to our community will be substantial.

Of course, another important reality has been missing in the discussion about cutting programs. For nonprofit organizations that have already trimmed budgets to the bare essentials, the loss of these TANF funds will mean significant additional layoffs that cannot be helpful to our economy. Some of those laid off employees could end up needing TANF benefits if they cannot find employment.

I urge you to pass HB 739 that will preserve critical and essential services to our most vulnerable populations in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present my testimony to you today.

FINTestimony

From: Antoinette M. Rodrigues [rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 9:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cynthiak@mfss.org; colleen@mfss.org; cynthial@mfss.org; jani@mfss.org
Subject: Testimony in Favor of HB 739

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing this letter in favor of HB 739, specifically, to request you to continue funding the Healthy Start Program at Maui Family Support Services.

Studies show that it effectively prevents child abuse and neglect in families participating in the program for at least a year. With the economy creating more stress for Maui County families, now, more than ever, we need to keep this essential program. Maui, Molokai and Lanai do not have the resources that people living on Oahu can readily access. The loss of Healthy Start will have devastating consequences for our island communities. It is the only program of its kind.

Family Support Workers visit families on a regular basis to provide child development information for parents of keiki ages 0-3 years of age. They also assist with parent education and family planning; and child care referrals for parents in school or reentering the work force. Family Support Workers call upon Child Development Specialists to help the family if a child's growth is under par and help the child get services to achieve developmental milestones. If a mother appears to be suffering from postpartum depression, domestic violence or substance abuse, they can consult with a Clinical Specialist to help her get these services.

Without Healthy Start in Maui County, I anticipate:

- 1.) An increase in untreated mental health problems--contributing to a number of tragic consequences--including more suicides.
- 2.) An increase in untreated developmental delays in infants, leading to a need for more special education services when the child enters school.
- 3.) More substance abuse and more domestic violence; and more medical and legal problems for the State to pay for.
- 4.) More child abuse and neglect; again, an increase in the need for medical and legal intervention; and perhaps tragically, an increase in infant mortality.

It seems to me that the State is faced with the following choice: **either pay now for preventing these problems—or pay later for more expensive intervention and treatment programs.** (e.g., foster care, out of the home placement and residential treatment programs; along with increased legal and medical costs to the State.)

You have the power to prevent a lot of needless suffering for the future constituents of Maui County. Please continue to fund Healthy Start!

Sincerely,

Antoinette Rodrigues, MA

35 Holomakani Drive
 Kula, Hawaii 96790
 Home: 808.878.1651
 Cell: 808.264.9392

3/2/2009

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 10:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: weltys@mauigateway.com
Subject: Testimony for HB739 on 3/3/2009 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/3/2009 4:00:00 PM HB739

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colleen Welty
Organization: Individual
Address: 328 Hololani Str. Pukalani, HI 96768
Phone:
E-mail: weltys@mauigateway.com
Submitted on: 3/2/2009

Comments:

Please support HB 739 for funding for needy families. The Enhanced Healthy Start and the Healthy Start Programs are good, sound investments in human capital. The State will see a return on that investment as Enhanced Healthy Start and Healthy Start keep families from needing more expensive and more extensive State funded services "down the line". Mahalo.