



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
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February 5, 2009

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 8:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

The Office of Youth Services strongly supports HB739 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families which provides 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 teen 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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 739

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL GARY M. ISHIKAWA
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 5, 2009

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee.

Good Morning. I'm BG Gary Ishikawa, Deputy Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii.

We strongly support House Bill 739.

If House Bill 739 is passed, it would detail how the legislature will spend TANF funds. Included in this expenditure will be the National Guard About Face Program for at-risk youths in our communities.

Chair Mizuno and Committee Members, thank you for keeping the About Face family of programs in your thoughts.

Let me provide a brief summary of the program.

About Face started in Florida in 1997 with a partnership between the Florida National Guard and a company called Paxen. It continues to operate in Florida to this day.

Partnerships are a key ingredient of this program. On the Federal level the partnership is between the National Guard Bureau and the Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Here in Hawaii it is a partnership between the Hawaii National Guard and the State Department of Human Services. Also here at home we have just

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment Center (Formerly Children's Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha Pride Center

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctr. of HI Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihini Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

February 2, 2009

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 739 RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 739 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

The State of Hawaii uses TANF funds to fund teen pregnancy prevention, workforce development, and family strengthening programs. Such programs enable hardworking individuals and families to maintain or attain self-sufficiency and prevent many problems, such as child abuse and neglect. There are sound reasons for continuing to support these important programs, even in difficult economic times.

The non-profit sector, which contracts with the State to provide many of these services, is the fourth largest employer in Hawaii, accounting for 8% of total jobs. If non-profit contracts are cut, it will result in increased unemployment and a loss of revenues from the many goods and services that these small businesses purchase (such as rent, supplies, and equipment).

Demand for the services funded with TANF monies is likely to increase when families are stressed by economic hardships. Following the 9/11 terrorist attack, child abuse and neglect reporting increased by 30% to the highest level ever. Family strengthening programs alleviate stress and reduce the need for costly intervention programs.

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) recommends that TANF funding for teen pregnancy prevention, family strengthening, and workforce development programs be limited to organizations that use programs that are evidence-based and culturally appropriate.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Hale Kipa

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Neighbor Island Board Liaison

February 4, 2009

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Bower, Vice Chair

FROM: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Deputy CEO, Hale Kipa, Inc.

RE: HB739, RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES
February 5, 2009, Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Bower and Committee Members:

Hale Kipa, Inc. thanks you for this opportunity to express its support of TANF funding to be effectively used to address a range of child welfare issues, which without services, would result in more family abuse and disruption, teen pregnancy and an accompanying drain on the State of Hawaii's resources.

There has been a sincere and genuine attempt by many community agencies to respond to the crucial needs of Hawaii families by stretching their dollars to creatively develop a range of programs that seek to prevent teen pregnancies and help families remain together and develop their inherent skills and connections that allow them be self-sufficient. It remains clear that monies spent on the front end of child welfare services represent a marked savings from funds expended on the back end, when youth find themselves placed in either the foster care or juvenile justice systems at a much larger cost to the youth, families, and State.

Studies done by the Department of Human Services have suggested that programs have saved the State immediate funding by keeping youth out of more expensive alternatives. Hale Kipa has been providing a program that has assisted the Department meet that objective. Since its inception over four years ago, the Hawaii Advocate Program has had an external evaluation process attached to it. Current evaluation data for over 500 youth suggests that the Hawaii Advocate Program is successfully implementing its program and participants are agreeing that their needs are met, skills have increased and they were more connected to supports in their own communities. In terms of outcomes, for youth, significant increases were revealed in school grades, self efficacy, problem solving, and coping skills, while a significant decrease was shown in school absences. Youth also maintained positive improvements at follow-up, including significant increases in family



management, school bonding, school grades, self-efficacy, problem solving, and coping skills, and a significant decrease in school absences. Parents reported significant increases in family bonding, family interaction, parental attitudes, and social support at discharge as well as follow-up. Monthly Report data on impact outcomes suggest that the program is showing success in preventing youth and family problems in the areas of out-of-home placements, abuse/neglect, arrests, and out-of-wedlock pregnancies, as well as improving youth engagement with education and employment. This type of program and results clearly support the purposes of TANF.

Many programs use TANF funding to work with the State to provide 'safety net' resources that keep families safe and intact while ensuring the State continues to make significant progress in its own Program Improvement Plan. We cannot afford a setback and need to work to continue to provide funding and programming that continues our positive momentum.

Hale Kipa is very willing to work with other community agencies, the Department of Human Services and the legislature to address the appropriate use of TANF funding in a socially and fiscally responsible manner which pays attention to both the crucial needs of families as well as the State's current fiscal condition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW
Deputy CEO – Outreach Services





For Thurs Feb 5, 2009
House HUS
8:15 am

National Association of Social Workers
Email: info@naswhi.org

Hawaii Chapter
PH: 521-1787

February 4, 2009

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the House Human Services Committee
FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii
RE: HB 739 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families- **SUPPORT**

Chair Mizuno and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW), member of the Welfare and Employment Rights Coalition (WERC) and sit on the Financial Assistance Advisory Council for DHS. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of HB 739 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Over the years, the Legislature has been very generous with the use of TANF dollars, but also very wise to set some aside for reserve. In fact, some have criticized us for keeping a large reserve that can only be used for cash assistance. However, we must remember that cash assistance is the original purpose of TANF. While the Department reports that those needing TANF assistance is decreasing, with our current economic situation we may see more needing TANF assistance in the years to come. I am concerned that the Department is proposing a cut to the cash assistance payments. While the cut amounts to \$32/month, it adds up to \$384 for the year. What would you say if you were told that you would be getting \$384 less a year?

As the economy worsens, the safety net is needed even more. Government must enable vulnerable individuals and families to meet their basic shelter, food and health care needs and support their return to the workforce. The middle class may also be losing their jobs, housing and suffering economic dislocation as a result of the recession, so TANF funds must also be used to help prevent the middle class from falling into poverty.

I question the wording in Part IV, line 11 "year 2009-2010 for *employment training programs* other services that enable families receiving benefits to remain intact". Part II is also for "*employment training programs* other services that enable families receiving benefits to become self sufficient". Is the main focus of TANF funds for employment training programs? Perhaps saying "family strengthening programs" would be more appropriate for programs to be funded in Part IV.

A quote by Herbert H. Humphrey states that "*The moral test of Government is how that Government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped*". I hope Hawai'i will be able to pass this moral test with flying colors!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I, Matthew Simmons UH School of Social Work, support H. B. 739.

Committee on Human Services

Thursday February 5, 2009 @ 8:15 am

Inevitable are the hard economic times faced by the majority. And even more prevalent is the gap between rich and poor. As we face these economic crisis' it is important to note that the most affected are the most vulnerable populations that desperately need our help. As we see more and more local businesses such as Aloha Airlines and Molokai Ranch close, the number of foreclosures on houses rise, and inflation remaining strong, it is imperative that we continue to provide necessary aid to the families in our communities that need it. While continuing to provide essential healthcare, education, employment, support programs and economic assistance, we must also be diligent in creating reserves for further economic downturn.

Our communities and families are the backbone of our society and it is our duty to ensure that families have every working opportunity to remain self sufficient and strong. We can achieve this through the further funding of TANF with the realization that cutting back these expenditures in a time when they are needed the most leaves Hawaii's families without the emotional and economic stability that ensures families their self-sufficiency.

brower2-Jenna

From: Joel Fischer [REDACTED]@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 8:19 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: HB739:HUS;2/5;8:15AM;Rm329

Importance: High

Categories: Red Category

HB739, Relating to TANF
HUS; Chair, Rep Mizuno

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.

This bill is an almost automatic pass, I suppose, but I am especially supporting the caring way it was written. We all have clear recognition of the hardships people are facing now. Understanding, though, how difficult these times are for our most vulnerable citizens -those receiving public cash assistance- requires extraordinary empathy.

I am writing in support of this bill and its language as my way of requesting that we keep the needs of the vulnerable always in mind, and oppose any pressures to reduce their benefits.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
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"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill