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February 5 2009

**LATE**  
Testimony

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 739 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO  
NEEDY FAMILIES**

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

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 739 is to detail how the Legislature directs the Department of Human Services to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, emphasizing direct payments to families, employment training, teenage pregnancy prevention, and keeping families intact.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services is in strong support of this bill with the following recommendations:

1. Amend Part I, Section 3, of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 3. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in 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 that shall be expended to provide

assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, and for associated eligibility determination costs.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.”

2. Amend Part II, Section 5, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 5. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$26,000,000 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 that shall be expended to obtain work program contracts for temporary assistance for needy families and temporary assistance for other needy families recipients; to provide support services for temporary assistance for needy families and temporary assistance for other needy families recipients.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.”

3. Amend Part III, Section 7, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 7. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$12,000,000 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 that shall be expended to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.”

4. Amend Part IV, Section 9, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 9. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$7,000,000 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 that shall be expended for purchase of service contracts for child protective services.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.”

5. Amend Part V by deleting Section 10 and inserting the following sections to read as follows:

“SECTION 10. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$19,800,000 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 that shall be transferred to the child care development fund.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.

SECTION 11. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$9,890,000 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 that shall be transferred to the social services block grant.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.

SECTION 12. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$5,000,000 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 that shall be expended for information systems costs related to the temporary assistance for needy families program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.

SECTION 13. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$9,500,000 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 that shall be expended for the costs of administering the temporary assistance for needy families program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.”

6. Amend this bill by adding a new Part VI and new section 14 to read as follows:

“SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.”

The Legislature's authorization of the spending of TANF federal 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, services and benefits supported by these TANF funds, many through our private non-profit agency partners, are designed to prevent and reduce children living in poverty.

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

H1B 739

SB1666 – Testimony

2/2/2009

This bill in support of continued funding for TANF is pound-wise. While some of Hawaii's employers are letting workers go, many appear to be reducing work hours from 40 per week to 36 per week since the beginning of 2009, although figures on this may not yet be available. This may create a new wave of families who are in need of temporary assistance, given that many of Hawaii's residents have in recent years been living at the edge of their capability to meet the costs of keeping their families fed, housed, clothed, and healthy, due to rising costs and insufficient wages to meet these costs.

TANF, properly funded, can help these families weather this economic crisis. The families I'm speaking of have a good track record – have maintained employment, paid their bills, taken care of their families – but not may find that their best efforts simply are not enough in the current economic climate. If TANF were not to lend support to these families now, we will have broken our trust with them. If these families wind up homeless even for a short period of time, they may later require more help due to the vagaries of exposure: eventual costs to the state due to increased incidence of injury, violence, rape, drug culture exposure, and the psychological effects of depression, anxiety, and despair.

Let us not allow ourselves to watch our child poverty rates increase at this difficult time. Countries that spend less on Social Welfare have higher child poverty rates, according to the Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin. The U.S. has the highest child poverty rate and the lowest non-elderly social expenditure (as a percentage of GDP) of all the developed nations. Shame on us for these abominable figures! Hawaii knows the importance of ohana. Please support funding TANF. It is the right and sensible thing to do.

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**LATE**  
Testimony

# 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 Ctrs. 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 Kalihii 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

Late

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.

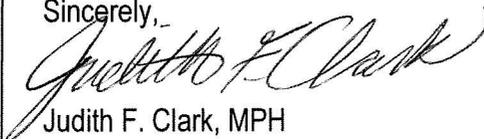
The non-profit sector, which contracts with the State to provide many of these services, is the fourth largest employer in Hawaii, accounting for 8% of total jobs. If non-profit contracts are cut, it will result in increased unemployment and a loss of revenues from the many goods and services that these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