

SB 1666

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1666 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2009; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1666 is to detail how the Legislature directs the Department of Human Services to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES) 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 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 DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1666

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL GARY M. ISHIKAWA
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 3, 2009

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the committee.

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

We strongly support Senate Bill 1666.

If Senate Bill 1666 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 Chun Oakland 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

signed a Memorandum of Understanding the Department of Education. That MOU is signed by Superintendent Pat Hamamoto and MG Bob Lee The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. Another significant MOU which we have is with Alu Like.

On a local level we are in partnership with the Kauai County through contracts to provide service utilizing WIA funding.

We have been operating About Face for 5 years, starting with the first graduating class on Kauai in January 2004. To date we are in 17 High schools in every county of the state. We average approximately 2300 plus students per year.

In our budget we are requesting the authorization to receive from the State Department of Human Services up to 9.5 Million Dollars to both continue our current operations and to expand the About Face Programs.

The 9.5 Million will result in expanding the program from 17 to 19 High Schools, continue and expand our middle schools program from 15 to 19 schools and to pilot an adult program assisting TANF adults.

The reason we have set up our budget request as an authorization to receive up to 9.5 million dollars is that we are not in competition with other service providers and I'm certain there are other very worth while programs which will need financial support. We emphasize partnerships with other service providers and organizations.

This concludes my testimony, are there any questions?

ChunOakland2 - Jane

From: Howard Garval [HGARVAL@cfs-hawaii.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:02 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB 1666-RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara,

Testimony on SB 1666-RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

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

February 1, 2009

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 SB 1666 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 SB 1666 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 SB 1666 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 SB 1666 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.

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Darlene Beatty, Division Administrator
Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Date: February 2, 2009

Place: Senate Human Services Committee
February 3, 2009
Conference Room 016
2:45 p.m.

Re: **Testimony in support of SB 1666**

My name is Darlene Beatty, I am the Division Administrator for Family and Therapeutic Services of Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH). In addition to providing cash benefits to needy families, TANF funds have been used to provide much needed services to help children and families take steps toward and maintain financial stability and independence. Programs supported by TANF funds have helped individuals receive job training, teen pregnancy prevention education and services to support and maintain family units. In these difficult economic times it is vitally important that these services continue to be adequately funded in order to continue to support individuals and families to be able to become independent and self-sufficient.

I urge you to pass SB 1666 with sufficient funding levels to ensure that Hawaii's children and families receive the services they need to succeed.



Hale Kipa

615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-3139

T 808 589-1829
F 808 589-2610
E info@halekipa.org

Executive Staff

Punky Pletan-Cross
Chief Executive Officer

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka
*Deputy CEO of
Outreach Services*

Mari Vermeer
*Deputy CEO of
Placement Services*

Dori Tyau
*Director of Human
Resources and Training*

Board of Directors

Stacy Evensen
Chair

Luke W.T. Yeh
Vice Chair

Dennis H.K. Hu
Treasurer

Lianne Iwanaga-Ohashi
Secretary

Paul Schraff
Past Chair

Brian Isobe
Past Chair

Heidi Gregor
Past Chair

Sterling Yee
Past Chair

Zadoc W. Brown

Chris Deuchar

Ed Fountain

Phil Gray

Wendi A. Kamiya

Luis P. Salaveria

Scott W.H. Seu

Rona M. Suzuki

Susan Y.M. Utsugi

Heidi K. Wild

Dianne Willoughby

Andy Levin
Neighbor Island Board Liaison

February 2, 2009

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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

RE: SB1666, RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES
February 3, 2009, Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Les Ihara:

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





Hearing date:
Tuesday,
February 3,
2009, 2:45 p.m.
Senate
Committee on
Human
Services.
Please deliver
copies of
testimony to
Room 016.

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Elisabeth Chun *Elisabeth Chun*
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009
2:45 p.m., Room 016

Subject: SB 1666 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Good Beginnings Alliance is pleased to present testimony about Hawaii's utilization of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), TANF's effect on young children, and the TANF relationship to the Child Care Development Block Grant.

Since 1996, TANF funds have been a critical part of the safety net for Hawaii's families. The activities delineated in this bill: direct payments to families, employment training, teenage pregnancy prevention, and keeping families intact are all foundational to sustaining and growing healthy families.

Less clearly stated however are the "other services that enable families receiving benefits to become self-sufficient." Inclusive and allowable in this category are child care subsidies for children while their parents are at work or in training. We strongly encourage the legislature to ensure that childcare will be among those "other services." Given the potentiality that Project Open Doors, currently funded with state funds, may be reduced or even cut entirely, the importance to families of funding child care subsidy with TANF funds cannot be underestimated.

Why is the TANF and CCDBG funding so critical to Hawaii at this time?

- This federal money is the only money coming forward which can assist our workforce with child care as families struggle to keep jobs or gain training to secure new jobs.
- This federal money is the only public money available to sustain Hawaii's early childhood system development work, as described by Act 14 of the 2008 session.
- This federal money is the only public money likely to increase over the next two years. As listed currently in U.S. House and Senate Economic Stimulus bills, the funds would mean increased millions of dollars to Hawaii.

The Good Beginnings Alliance 2006-2007 unduplicated count data shows that:

- 38,016 children in Hawaii are low-income children. Their families earn less than 185% of the federal poverty level;
- 4922 children in Hawaii are in families identified by TANF or TAONF
- 2,155 children were served in preschools by the Department of Human Services Child Care Connection public money – either TANF transfer or CCDBG
- 1,105 children were served by Department of Human Services' Preschool Open Doors.

We know the numbers of children served have increased since then and now, in the challenged economy of 2009, even more families are seeking work or are in training. Assistance to low-income families for early education and care is even more critical. This is a **current workforce issue**. Good Beginnings Alliance urges the committee to recognize that this is also a **future workforce issue**. We owe it to our children, families and State not to be short sighted in decision making even in scarce times – we urge you not to cut monies that create a better future for our families. Without the quality funds allowable in the TANF transfer to CCDBG, Hawaii will struggle to progress.

We know that reductions are necessary and we know that cuts must be made. However, family support and preservation, early education and care are our proven investment for the future. Please don't leave them on the cutting room floor.



For Tues Feb 3, 2009
Senate HSP
2:45 pm

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

Hawaii Chapter
PH: 521-1787

February 2, 2009

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Senate Human Services Committee
FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii
RE: SB 1666 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families- **SUPPORT**

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate 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 SB 1666 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

First, I would like to express my appreciation to the 23 members of the Senate who signed this bill and the Senate majority caucus' intent to support the health and human services safety net. In this time of economic struggle the health and human services sector needs to remain strong to help those who are in need of assistance.

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.

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.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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'ains Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokus Kalih 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: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1666 RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1666 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy.

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

To: Senator Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2008; 2:45 PM

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1666, RELATING TO
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Submitted by: Milton Hutchison, Executive Director, Mutual Assistance Associations
Center (MAAC)

Good afternoon Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara and committee members. My name is Milton Hutchison, Executive Director of Mutual Assistance Associations Center (MAAC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Pālolo Valley District Park Gymnasium directly across from Pālolo's public housing projects.

I am here to testify in **strong** support of SB 1666, RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES.

For 23 years, MAAC has been on the front lines delivering much needed educational, social and technology services to the low-income families residing in Pālolo Valley and its public housing projects.

We have seen what happens to communities when gangs roam unchecked, crime is rampant, families are threatened, and hope is lost. We must not let our most vulnerable communities suffer this fate.

SB 1666 will provide the safety net so critical to keeping families intact. It will continue funding for monthly support, job training and other services needed to prepare families for living wage jobs and remove them from public assistance.

The need to maintain TANF funding is now more urgent than ever before. More families are on the brink of falling into the abyss of homelessness. If we don't help them now, the social costs will be even greater.

MAAC strongly supports, and urges you to support, SB 1666. Thank you all very much.

Mahalo nui loa,

Milton Hutchison
Executive Director, Mutual Assistance Associations Center (MAAC)



HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

47 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2013
Tel: (808) 961-2681 / Fax: (808) 935-9213

To: Committee on Human Services
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016 – State Capitol

**Re: TESTIMONY OF GEROGE YOKOYAMA IN SUPPORT OF SB 1666 –
RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES**

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC), a community action agency, I emphatically express my support for SB 1666, detailing how the legislature will spend TANF funds for the continuation of support programs, specifically job training programs that enable families to become economically self sufficient, strengthen the family unit, and develop a positive attitude toward self, family, and work.

HCEOC has been privileged to receive TANF funds to provide job training programs for the agency's Hawaii Biotech Tissue Culture Center (HBTCC) and Food Service programs, working with underachieving third and fourth grade school referred students to raise their level of academic achievement. As a result of HCEOC's job training programs, TANF eligible individuals showed an overwhelming enthusiasm to learning, improved their interpersonal skills and self-esteem, 50% found employment in food service positions, 10% enrolled in Hawaii Community College's Culinary Arts Program, 34.15% of the HBTCC trainees were selected to participate in HCEOC's Federal Renewable Energy Project. Further, the ultimate goal for referred third and fourth grade underachieving students is to transform them to becoming independent life-long learners so that they will not repeat the experience of poverty conditions in their adult life, make a positive contribution to society, prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and substance abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1666.

George Yokoyama
Executive Director
Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

Testimony on SB 1666
Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
Presented by Malakai Maumalanga M.S.W.
Adult Friends for Youth Master Practitioner
February 3, 2009
2:45 PM

Good afternoon Chair Chun-Oakland and members of the Committee. Adult Friends for Youth supports a position that would enable the State to draw down TANF reserve funds to meet critical needs of children and families at risk for health, financial, physical, and emotional harm, at this difficult and dangerous time in our community's economic life. Failure to do this can be expected to increase the harm, not only to the at risk population, but to the community at large.

The goals of this bill have value as long as they reflect the needs of Hawaii's highest risk population. But the devil is, as always, in the details, and this bill is short on details.

It is good to support job training and financial self-sufficiency. However, this can only be accomplished if programs that have the ability to reach young people who are most likely to drop out of school and drop out of the workforce are supported. In the first place the confidence of youth in the target population must be achieved. In the second place the people who are being served will need help to believe in their potentialities for success.

It is also good to educate young people about the "effects of teenage pregnancy" and "educated decision-making." However, in and of themselves these words are no more than platitudes. Those at whom this education is addressed must first be in a good enough place to make use of the information that is provided. Education is only half the battle and the easiest half at that. It will only have meaning if the helping person is valued and respected. To achieve that sort of meaningful relationship takes time.

The importance of helping families become "self-sufficient, stable, and educated" is self-evident, but easier said than done. However, like the other goals of this bill it is not unachievable. The most difficult task is to acquire a non-threatening and approachable relationship with at-risk families. Adult Friends for Youth with over two decades of experience under its belt has found that the most effective way of reaching

parents is through their children. It has found that when the child succeeds families take pride in that success and begin to believe in a better future for themselves.

Thank you for your attention to my testimony.



Seagull Schools

Main Office: 1300 Kailua Road, Kailua, Hawaii 96734
Tel: (808) **261-8534** · Fax: (808) 261-7052 · www.seagullschools.com
Email: seagull@aloha.com

Testimony Regarding SB 1666

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

From: Chuck Larson #225-5896
Seagull Schools

Hearing Date: February 3, 2009
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Number of Copies: 6

In this testimony I am requesting that the legislature restore the TANF funding of approximately \$1.9 million that will allow for the restoration of the Quality Incentive program that was previously implemented through the Department of Human Services.

I feel that it was the most significant program the state has ever implemented to promote quality in early education programs.

Without it, there is very little external motivation for preschools or childcare providers to meet higher standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Larson
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Michael Buck
President

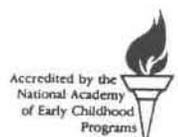
Chuck Larson
Executive Director

Madea Timmon

Lynn Guild Ewald

School Locations

Kailua & Administrative Office - 261-8534
Kailua & Administrative Office - 261-8534



Accredited by the
National Academy
of Early Childhood
Programs

Dear legislators,

I am the clinical director of Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc., which currently receives TANF funding. At this moment, we are the only non-profit organization in Hawaii to promote music therapy for improving people's quality of life. Under TANF funding, we provide at-risk youths and families in need with youth empowerment and family mediation services, utilizing highly trained, credentialed music therapists and committed volunteers who believe in the power of creative medium. In these programs, we have served about 200 people in this fiscal year. I have witnessed amazing transformation taking place among most at-risk, needy individuals and families, which is reflected by our record, showing nearly perfect attendance to the program, 98% of participants feeling supported by us, and no one single drop-out from the program. We have been so successful to motivate people who lost their hope, to try something new, which was not available to them before, explore and empower themselves, and become a positive source of their own success.

It is also important to acknowledge that many of Hawaii's youths and families are very musical and culturally inclined to accept creativity and non-verbal expressions. This is a remarkable strength of Hawaii's people, which needs to be more explored and utilized as their tool to express, communicate and discover their potentials when their despairs and agonies are beyond what words can describe. Our programs have been a huge emotional outlet for them in that aspect. We saw a youth from Waianae commute to Honolulu by bus every week without skipping any sessions, a couple on the blink of divorce start dancing together, and another youth decide to continue her songwriting to express herself instead of violence. Fortunately, the TANF funding has been providing our clients with opportunities to do so.

I, as a service provider, therefore urge the legislators to reconsider the decision for the total elimination of TANF funding from our programs. We are ready to sacrifice ourselves to balance the ailing State budget, but the total funding elimination will kill our program and people's hope to recover. If that happens, I believe that the State has to repay in the future big time! Please consider the partial funding cut instead of total elimination if the cut is inevitable, which could still sustain our program. We are a creative organization that will always find the way to help people under a financial pressure. The bottom line is: We put people first not money!

I deeply appreciate your time to read my testimony,

Aloha,

Keiko Kajiwara, MME, MA, MT-BC (Board Certified Music Therapist)
Clinical Director
Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.
1314 South King Street, #711
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 593-2620

ChunOakland2 - Jane

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:31 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB1666; HMS; Tuesday, 2/3/09; 2:45PM; Rm 016

SB1666, Relating to TANF
HMS; Chair, Sen Chun-Oakland

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
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"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

February 2, 2009

I strongly support the continuation of TANF funding. I am a music therapist working with at risk youth and needy families currently. I saw numerous positive changes in our clients through TANF program. I would like to share a letter from one of our clients who successfully completed our youth empowerment program. She had a history of adjustment disorder and substance abuse.

Dear (therapists' names),

I just wanna say thank you so much for your time. Thank you for coming and doing music therapy with me, with us. Music is my passion in life and I am glad I met you guys and I am glad to know that there is such thing as music therapy. You guys made me feel like it was all about me. You guys helped me a lot with my music and I am thankful for that. Hope you guys help some more kids out there. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Client's name)

The above client was abandoned from her original family and spent most of her time on street. She expressed how lonely and awful it was through singing and her original poems through rap style music. Through music therapy, she recovered her self-esteem and increased her social skill significantly. She successfully went back to one of her former foster family after the program.

This is just one case from our participants, over 120 people in the last year. By helping these youths and families, we also can reduce our future funding to cure people who could not be rescued by this funding cut. I am sure it will cost more to treat them in the future.

Please reconsider the decision of funding cut and please continue helping our community as mentioned in the above letter.

Yoshimi Otake, MA, NRMT, MT-BC

Weary, worn, burdened, and spent: Words that describe the mothers I see in our office weekly. Weary from working long hours and odd jobs to provide care for their child with special needs. Worn from spending what energy is left to nurture and attend to their at-risk teen. Burdened by the rising costs of health care and lack of therapeutic services for their child who is isolated by his disease. Spent from giving of themselves emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially...unselfishly for their child. Without the funding our Non-Profit organization receives from TANF program , we are unable to support the weary, worn, burdened, and spent.

Because of TANF funding, Sounding Joy Music Therapy is able to offer unique services with remarkable results to families and youth who are unable otherwise to procure the help they need. Without these services, the state of Hawaii will face new, more costly challenges in the future. Our clients continue to report that because of music therapy, they feel more empowered to say, "No" to drugs, alcohol, and sex; they feel that they are equipped to make better choices; their family relationships have improved; they feel confident to stand against peer pressure; through music they have found an outlet for emotions; and they have an increased self esteem. Without music therapy and other social services that depend on TANF funding, Hawaii's youth will suffer and this will ultimately impact the future of our state and nation.

Teresa Galacia, MTS, MT-BC
Music Therapist
Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.

ChunOakland2 - Jane

From: Walderhill Summerdorf [walderhillsummerdorf@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:46 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB1666

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THRU TRUTH WHICH STRENGTHENS ME
HOW YA GONNA REACH THERE? KISS YOUR CHILDREN EVERY NIGHT
ENTER INTO THE CIRCLE NEVER MORE TO ROAM.

--- On **Fri, 1/30/09, Walderhill Summerdorf** <walderhillsummerdorf@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Walderhill Summerdorf <walderhillsummerdorf@yahoo.com>

Subject: music therapy

To: HMSTestimony@Capito.hawaii.gov

Date: Friday, January 30, 2009, 10:42 PM

SB1666

Sounding Joy Music Therapy is a great program for assisting the special needs population. I hope you will be able to prioritize it as an essential part of "curriculum" for those who need help with the challenges of living a normal life under their particular circumstances.

I have a daughter with Down's Syndrome. She needs this therapy.

thankyou, sincerely , Virginia Arnold

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THRU TRUTH WHICH STRENGTHENS ME
HOW YA GONNA REACH THERE? KISS YOUR CHILDREN EVERY NIGHT
ENTER INTO THE CIRCLE NEVER MORE TO ROAM.

ChunOakland2 - Jane

From: Caroline Kong [haha@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:08 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB1666 2/3/2009 2:45 PM Testimony submission

2/3/09

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to present testimony regarding the TANF program and it's possible total loss of funding resulting in the end of an extremely important component of therapies to special children in need.

My daughter who suffers from Rett syndrome has been a recipient of Music therapy direct services with The Sounding Joy organization. Music therapy has allowed my child to improve globally in dealing with the emotional, behavioral, social, and physical challenges which Rett syndrome creates for her. She is can make choices, express an array of emotions unattainable thru other mediums and physically she is able to overcome her severe apraxia and actually makes music on her own! Rett causes a level of helplessness and dependence unimaginable to most of us. Music therapy has empowered and enriched my child's life in truly tangible and functional ways beyond measure. Music therapy has impacted my child's gains throughout her entire educational program. It is her main motivator and has improved her communication, fine and gross motor skills and has enhanced her cognitive functioning and body awareness. She is also more equipped to adjust to changes in her environment and as she enters into puberty, in dealing with it's attendant self-consciousness.

This past year my child was lucky enough to expand her therapy sessions into a group setting due solely to the TANF program. She was able to utilize her acquired skills in a social and educational setting with her peers. The loss of such an important and unique program to our lagging educational system in Hawai'i would be devastating. The measure of a society, especially under stress (as we are now, in a deficit economy), is where and to whom it chooses to make it's ³sacrifices² in these tough times. By all indications the budget plan put forth by our governor and others to deal with this crisis is targeting the most vulnerable, least powerful, and the neediest in our state. With shameful salary increases, hearty congratulatory awards to department heads and leaders of governmental agencies with questionable motives it would appear the values of the few and powerful trump those of greatest need. Attacking programs that assist the elderly, blind and disabled for mere pennies on the dollar is an embarrassment. Look higher at administrative levels...there is more money there, believe me. Asking people with no belt to tighten to do so is disgraceful and extremely telling of the moral compass of some of the leaders in Hawai'i at the moment.

I thank you in advance for doing the right thing in looking elsewhere for cuts in the state budget to make up for shortfalls.

-A concerned parent

February 2, 2009

Hearing notice SB 1666

Committee: HMS

Room: 016

Hearing Date: 2/3/09 2:45:00 PM

I am writing a testimony in support for Sounding Joy Music Therapy. My family attended their music therapy services for their "Family Mediation Program".

The experience was wonderful and it brought our entire family together. My daughter is on the Autism Spectrum, her diagnoses is PDD-NOS. She has limited verbal communication and has a lot of sensory integration issues. The first few sessions of music therapy she couldn't even sit through the 45 minute session. By the end of the 10 weeks, she was not only able to sit through and participate in the entire session, but she was able to sing actual sentences and that carried over to everyday life. Her socialization skills flourished and both our daughters made a deep connection with their uncle and aunts that attended the sessions as well.

Having a child with special needs affects the entire family, it can be very stressful and costly with all of the therapy that we need to do at home that the school districts and other services don't supply. The music therapy we received at Sounding Joy was at no cost to us, and it was something that we could do all together as a family.

It would be a shame for funding to be eliminated for Sounding Joy, it has made such a difference in our lives. We know of many other needy families that could benefit from their services. It would be a detriment to the community if this program is no longer subsidized.

Sincerely,

Caranthia White
3444 James Street
Hon., HI 96815
jimandcaran@yahoo.com

SB 1116

Senate Hearing February 3, 2009 @ 2:45pm

Testimony: G. Noelani Wilcox

As a parent I wanted to give my support to music therapy provided through Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc. Music therapy assisted my son to connect with others by understanding rhythm and harmony. The sessions were valuable in that it put no pressure to verbalize thoughts since music with choice of instrument allowed expression of thoughts and feelings hidden from him. Serious impairments require serious but joyful interventions.

Music therapy has shown to have a profound effect upon the body and psyche. Research has shown that music with a strong beat can stimulate brainwaves to resonate in sync with the beat, with faster beats bringing sharper concentration and more alert thinking, and a slower tempo promoting a calm, meditative state. With music therapy it is found that heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate decreases promoting relaxation and improved learning

For many children, youth and adolescents their life circumstances and disabilities have been detrimental to their learning. All human beings seek to be a part of. Music therapy uplifts their spirits restoring a belief in self. It is only then that connection with others occurs so that learning beyond their expected abilities is possible. Many are able to control their behavior or find an outlet for their stress so that they can make friends. Some learn to improve or develop a sense of timing. In our family situation it provided an opportunity for my son and I to connect through music rather than the daily grind of our schedules. Music therapy also helped my son to synchronize with various environments and improve his ability to be more independent.

Our society has to many people that we don't believe have possibilities. This especially occurs during periods of economic distress as is occurring across our nation. There is hope for everyone. We just need the keys of music therapy to unlock the sounds of joy for our children, youth and adolescents.

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.

Valerie S. Payton

UH Manoa School of Social Work

383-2616

vsp@hawaii.edu