

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1679, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

April 3, 2009

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Bill No. 1679, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, appropriates funds from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011 to the Departments of Health, Human Services, and Education and to the Executive Office on Aging to maintain levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health and public welfare and for grants to private agencies.

We are opposed to this bill. Rather than using the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to supplement general funds, in light of the critical budget shortfall facing the State, we believe it is more appropriate to use the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to replace general funds. Accordingly, in House Bill No. 1064, we have proposed to use \$60 million from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to replace general funds that are currently appropriated for the health care payments program in Fiscal Year 2009. In addition, in House Bill No. 1065, we have proposed to use another \$15 million from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to replace general fund appropriations for the health care payments program in Fiscal Year 2010. This will leave the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund with projected balances of \$6.2 million, \$3.5 million and \$15.7 million in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: SB 1679 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND
BUDGET RESERVE FUND**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health (DOH) and Human Services.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 1679 SD2 HD1**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and public welfare.

With respect to SB 1679 SD2 HD1, the Council strongly supports the following provisions for various programs relating to DD:

1. DOH Respite Program – Section 6, page 5, lines 11-19.
2. DOH Healthy Start Program – Section 7, page 5, lines 20-22, and page 6, lines 1-6.
3. Aging and Disability Resource Center – Section 10, page 7, lines 9-22, page 8, lines 1-22, and page 9, lines 1-5.
4. DOH DD Medicaid Waiver Program – Section 11, page 9, lines 6-14.
5. DOH Partnerships in Community Living – Section 13, page 10, lines 1-9.

Regarding the above provisions, we note that the House version of the State budget, HB 200 HD1, includes the following budget adjustments that differ from the Governor's proposed budget for the biennium 2009-2011:

1. Restores \$200,000 for the DOH Respite program to reflect FY 2008 levels and a change in the means of financing from general funds to tobacco settlement special funds. With the addition of the \$200,000, the respite budget is \$376,953.
2. Restores \$2.7 million in special funds from the tobacco settlement program to continue the Healthy Start Program in FY 2010 while DOH formulates and submits changes to the program.
3. Restores \$200,000 for the DOH DD Division's Partnership in Community Living (PICL) Program. The Governor's proposed budget eliminated this program.

The Council appreciates the adjustments made by the House for Respite, Healthy Start, and PICL. Although those adjusted amounts are not at the levels before legislative and Governor's reductions occurred in 2008, we recognize that due to the State's economic crisis situation, that will not happen and the above amounts in HD1 are still negotiable with the Legislature.

SB 1679 SD1 Senate Standing Committee Report No. 416 provided a list of critical safety net programs with appropriation amount requests for each program. Attached is information about the DOH Respite Program, HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program, and DOH PICL Program to explain the appropriation amounts included in the Committee Report.

- A. \$500,000 for the DOH Respite Program
- B. \$7 million for the HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program
- C. \$500,000 for the PICL Program

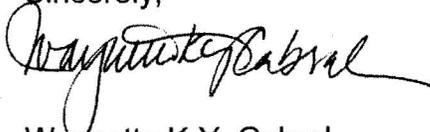
The Council was hopeful that the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act would provide Hawaii with some level of fiscal recovery. However, we were very disappointed to learn that Governor Lingle is proposing to use the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) projected to be \$320 million, to close the gap for the current State deficit. We anticipated that funds from the enhanced FMAP would be designated to safety net programs such as respite, PICL, Healthy Start, mental health, and Medicaid waiver for persons with DD.

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
Page 3
April 3, 2009

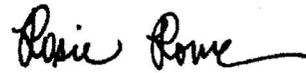
We urge you to keep SB 1679 SD2 HD1 alive as a vehicle to address essential services for education, public health, and public welfare during this economic crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony in strong support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair

Attachments

**Department of Health (DOH)
Respite Program**

The DOH Respite Program's budget has been administered under the Health Resources Administration (HRA). The budget has taken its share of reductions of \$375,872 during the past 18 years resulting in \$624,128 for the program. Below is the breakdown of the budget and its reductions.

DOH Respite Program Budget
Act 324, SLH 1990

\$1,000,000	Act 324, SLH 1990 Appropriation
(\$375,872)	Minus Budget reductions
\$624,128	Remaining in operating budget
(\$35,151)	Minus 4% legislative reduction, adjustment for personal services
\$588,977	Remaining in operating budget (minus the above reductions)

\$588,977	Operating Budget
(\$412,024)	Minus the Governor's proposed adjustments in the Executive Budget Request for FY 2010 and FY 2011
\$176,953	Amount available for respite
\$200,000	Restored by the House in HB 200 HD1
\$376,953*	Actual amount available for the Respite Program

During the past year, the budget was affected by the four percent legislative reduction (\$30,732 and adjustment for personal services (\$4,419). Those reductions left the program with \$588,977, until the Governor's proposed adjustments to the Executive Budget Request for FY 2010 and FY 2011 included the deletion of \$412,024 for respite services. That resulted in the current budget for respite services to be \$176,953. The total reduction in the respite budget is \$447,175.

*The House version of the State budget bill (HB 200 HD1) includes a restoration of \$200,000 to bring the total to \$376,953. That amount divided by each of the six program areas means \$62,825 for each target group. Information about the DOH Respite Program and impact of the reduction in the budget is included in the attached FACT SHEET.

FACT SHEET

Department of Health (DOH) Respite Program

What is Respite?

- Respite provides temporary relief for a family, which helps to preserve the family unit by decreasing the individual and family stresses associated with caregiving so that families can continue to care for their loved ones. It is beneficial not only for the family caregiver, but also for the child or adult with special needs. It allows the family to engage in daily activities, decrease a feeling of isolation, increase the ability to cope with daily caregiving responsibilities, and maintain stability during crisis situations.
- Respite provides substitute support for a child or adult with special needs in order to provide a period of relief or rest for the family caregiver. Respite can allow time for the family caregiver to address personal needs, other business, or an unexpected emergency.
- Respite is an important part of the continuum of services for families who care for an individual with special needs. This support for families prevents burnout of the caregiver and reduces the possibility for out-of-home placement.

Who Receives Respite?

Families caring for a family member who is:

- An infant or toddler three years of age or younger with a developmental delay
- A child or adult up to age 21 with a serious or terminal illness
- A child with a serious emotional disturbance
- A child or an adult with a developmental disability
- An adult with a serious mental illness

Who Provides Respite?

Currently, the Respite Program affords respite to the families of clients from six program areas of four divisions of DOH, per the intent of Act 324, SLH 1990. Each of these six program areas split the respite funds equally (approximately \$104,000 per program area - before budget reductions). In addition, the programs work together and have transferred funds between programs to cover shortfalls experienced by one or more of the other programs.

- **Family Health Services Division – Early Intervention Section (EIS)** - Provides respite support to families in two program areas - medically fragile children or youth up to age 21 and infants and toddlers with developmental delays three years of age or younger.
- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD)** – Provides respite support to families for children with a serious emotional disturbance.
- **Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD)** - Provides respite support to families in two program areas – respite is available to families of individuals (children and adults) with developmental disabilities and/or mental retardation (DD/MR) who are not in the DD/MR Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver Program.
- **Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD)** – Provides respite services via a single, statewide provider, Mental Health Kokua. A respite housing pilot was initiated that will present a valuable resource to families and providers in the community and a formal contract modification was completed. Due to the recent budget reduction of \$25 million to the AMHD budget, the contract with Mental Health Kokua was terminated effective January 15, 2009. Respite funds were being used to supplement funds provided through the AMHD operating budget (approximately 25 percent of the total contract expenditures).

What are the Budget Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2008?

Fiscal Year 2008

Division	FSHD	CAMHD	DDD	AMHD	Total
Amount Spent	\$202,627	\$67,543	\$156,110	\$17,899	\$444,179
Number of Families Served	544	73	194	34	845
Number of Families Waiting For Services	35	Data Not available	Data Not available	Not Applicable	Data Not available

What is Extent of the Budget Reduction?

The respite program budget sustained a discretionary reduction for FY 09 of approximately \$35,151. The Governor's recommendation in the executive budget for the FB 2009-2011 further reduces the amount for respite by \$412,024, resulting in a total appropriation of \$176,953 to be shared among the six program areas.

What is the Impact of a Budget Reduction?

Overall, the budget reduction would have an adverse impact on the provision of respite for families and individuals with special needs. As respite is reduced, families will become more "at risk" for out-of-home placement, foster care, and possibly higher levels of care. In addition, it is more cost effective to provide respite funds to families than to pay for foster care or out-of-home placement if families are unable to care for their loved ones at home.

- **Family Health Services Division – Early Intervention Section (EIS) –**
 - A determination will need to be made as to whether to reduce the number of families served or reduce the respite hours per month.
 - The waitlist for respite services is expected to increase.
 - Reduction in Federal grant funding – general funds from the respite appropriation have been used as a "match" required to leverage the Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant.
- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) –**
 - Possible increases in out-of-home placements and higher levels of care, such as therapeutic foster care, community-based residential care, or hospital-based residential care, which are much more restrictive and costly.
- **Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) –**
 - Allotments for respite services of children and adults would decrease, with a more significant reduction of respite allotment for Neighbor Islands.
 - Anticipates that it will be receiving more requests for respite services that will exceed their annual portion, particularly from families who do not qualify for Medicaid, are not eligible for the DD/MR Medicaid Waiver Program respite services, or have had a reduction in respite services under the waiver program.
- **Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) –**
 - AMHD Respite services contract with Mental Health Kokua was terminated effective January 15, 2009. All consumers with open authorizations for respite as of January 1, 2009 were transitioned to AMHD Peer Coaching services that provide similar support for consumers and respite for caregivers delivered by a peer.

**Department of Health (DOH), Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division
Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver Program
for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation (DD/MR)**

- Provides individuals with DD/MR support and services that will enable them to live as independently as possible in the least restrictive environment. Services include:
 - Adult Day Health
 - Personal Assistance
 - Respite
 - Habilitation
 - Habilitation-Supported Employment
 - Skilled Nursing
 - Specialized Services
 - Personal Emergency Response
 - Non-Medical Transportation
 - Specialized Medical Equipment
 - Environmental Accessibility Adaptations

- An individual must be eligible for Medicaid and require Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) level of care.
- For FY 2008, 2,532 individuals were served, and \$107,145,000 was expended.
- DD Division will need about \$7 million more for FY 2010 in order to add 125 people into the waiver and continue level of services for those currently in the waiver.
- A letter from DOH, DD Division dated December 26, 2008 was mailed to over 2,500 participants in the HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program to inform them of a reduction in services for individuals with DD/MR. Based on the State's economic conditions, DD Division "must reduce all participant services by 15% in order to sustain our system of supports and maintain services."
- To accomplish the above, DD Division asked participants to tell the Division where the individual could make the reductions.
- Individuals were asked to complete a Budget Reduction Worksheet that contained their monthly target budget for February to June 2009 and a list of services.
- The reduction in services began on February 1, 2009.
- Services that are affected include:
 1. All levels of Personal Assistance Habilitation (including Chore),
 2. Adult Day Health,
 3. Consumer Directed (including Chore),
 4. Skilled Nursing, and
 5. Respite.
- The reduction in services will impact individuals in receiving necessary personal assistance and other services to live independently in the community.
- Over 2,000 participants have completed and returned their budget reduction worksheets.
- DD Division sent out Notice of Action letters dated January 21, 2009 to participants that included information on their right to appeal the decision of DD Division.
- Over 250 participants have filed an informal appeal with DD Division. Informal hearings have been scheduled beginning January 30, 2009.
- On February 2, 2009, a class action lawsuit was filed regarding the reduction in services.
- Another letter dated February 13, 2009 was sent to participants clarifying their rights to appeal.

**Department of Health (DOH)
Developmental Disabilities
Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) Program**

- Prior to the proposed elimination of the program, PICL's budget was \$1.4 million. A mandatory reduction of \$1.2 million was made in August 2008.
- The remaining \$200,000 was eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- Contracts with providers were terminated in December 2008.
- For FY 2008, there were 1,404 referrals with \$1,153,519 expended.
- In the House version of the state budget bill (HB 200 HD1), \$200,000 was restored for the program.
- In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 333F-2(e), "...Only those individuals eligible for community services but not eligible for Medicaid waiver services or other federally reimbursed programs or for whom such services are not appropriate or not available based on their individual service plan shall receive services and supports with one hundred percent state funds."
- All participants, however, must first apply for Medicaid and the Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation (DD/MR) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver Program prior to the receipt of any DD Division-funded services.
- The intent of PICL was to be a flexible source of funding to allow individuals to self-direct their supports to live in the community.
- For individuals with DD who are ineligible for Medicaid or any other federally-reimbursed services, PICL is their only source of support.
- Individuals receive services in the following cases:
 1. Pending determination for Medicaid waiver services;
 2. Medicaid eligible, but the Medicaid waiver or other program does not cover the service or item; or
 1. Ineligible for Medicaid or any other federally reimbursed services, but eligible to receive community services.
- Services include, but are not limited to:
 - Adaptive equipment
 - Adult community activities
 - Companionship
 - Clothing
 - Cleaning, kitchen, bathroom household supplies
 - Day program costs not covered by Medicaid waiver
 - Dental
 - Emergency supplies
 - Emergency placement supports
 - Legal services
 - Personal care items
 - Specialized youth program
 - Transportation
 - Technology supports
- Funding was limited (\$2,000 per referral), and referrals were on a first-come, first-served basis.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

April 3, 2009

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1679, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY AND
BUDGET RESERVE FUND**

Hearing: Friday, April 03, 2009, 4:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys from the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) defers to the Department of Budget and Finance on this bill.

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

Date: 04/03/2009

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1175) RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health. Effective July 1, 2090. (SB1679 SD2, HD1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports Senate Bill 1679, SD2, HD1, as long as this appropriation would be additional funds and would not decrease our base budget. The Department would recommend to the Board of Education that any additional funds appropriated over and above the base budget approved by the Board, would be allocated to the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) for the most flexibility in supporting student achievement and providing needed services, supplies, and equipment to our students, including textbooks or other instructional materials. Schools would have more flexibility to contract for various therapist services as student needs were determined, or hire personnel for the school level supports to ensure all students are progressing academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. The flexibility in the use of WSF funds would provide the maximum ability to teach and support the whole child.

The Department supports Senate Bill 1679, SD2, HD1.



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Roger K. Takabayashi

President

Wii Okabe

Vice President

Karolyn Mossman
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike McCartney
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**RE: SB 1679, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND.**

April 3, 2009

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB1679, SD2, HD1, which appropriates moneys from the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain program levels for education, human services, and health.

HSTA believes the additional money allocated to the Department of Education (DOE) is sorely needed to fund the weighted student formula (WSF). These additional funds to the WSF will be particularly helpful to the smaller schools that have to sacrifice certain positions such as librarians, counselors, and other providers of critical educational services.

Direct funding to the WSF is essential because it will send resources directly to the school to meet student needs. If the DOE, in fact, uses the additional funds for the purpose of increasing moneys to the WSF, then HSTA wholeheartedly supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
The House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

**Subject: In Support of S.B. 1679, S.D. 2 H.D. 1
Relating to the Emergency Budget and
Reserve Fund**

The City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. We are in support of S.B. 1679, S.D. 1 H.D. 1, Relating to the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund.

This omnibus bill includes funding for many programs that support the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents in Hawaii. We strongly support funding for the following programs:

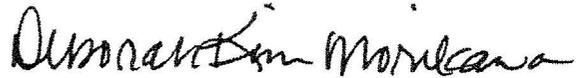
Kupuna Care
Aging and Disability Resource Centers
Healthy Aging Partnership Program
Senior Centers

The funding included in this bill would be essential to maintaining the health and welfare of senior citizens in Hawaii.

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
April 3, 2009
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,



Deborah Kim Morikawa
Director



Karen K. Miyake
County Executive on Aging
Elderly Affairs Division

CY:ab
sb 1679

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.
MAYOR

LUDVINA K. TAKAHASHI
EXECUTIVE ON AGING

GARY K. HEU
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



COUNTY OF KAUA'I
AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Friday, April 3, 2009

Testimony of Ludvina Takahashi, County Executive on Aging
Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1175), Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

The County of Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs is in full support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1175), which would provide support for further development of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Hawai'i's aging network's capacity to effectively embed two of the programs currently being implemented, *Ke Ola Pono*, the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) and EnhanceFitness, a physical activity program for older adults. This bill would support the Healthy Aging Partnership – Empowering Elders' (HAPEE) current efforts and initiative by appropriating funds to supplement its development statewide.

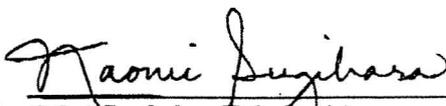
This appropriation would help to support two major initiatives under the Federal Administration on Aging's *Choices for Independence*. These initiatives, which are being carried out in the State of Hawaii and in our county, empowers elders: 1) to make informed decisions about, and be able to access existing health and long-term care options, primarily through the ADRC development, and 2) to stay active and healthy through the use of evidence-based disease and disability prevention programs in our communities.

For over five years, the KAEA has been a part of the Healthy Aging initiative. Since 2007, the KAEA and its local partnership have been working together to provide the EnhanceFitness program, which has now expanded to six sites here on Kaua'i. We have witnessed the impact on the lives of our seniors who participate at these one hour classes offered 3 times a week. The seniors have enjoyed the classes and the overall benefits of increased strength, flexibility, endurance and stamina. They especially look forward to the opportunity for socialization in this group exercise program. Performance measures have also shown significant improvement in their lower body strength and agility and balance, which is critical to the prevention of falls in older adults.

More recently, we also began implementation of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, in partnership with the Kaua'i District Health Office. Through this program, older adults with chronic illnesses are empowered to do goal setting and action planning with a 6-week series of classes, learning about topics to help them to better manage their health.

Healthy aging is about empowering our elders to make healthier choices for their future. The evidence is overwhelming that older adults who make healthier choices live longer and better lives. Maintaining good health enables older people to make behavioral changes that will reduce their risk of disease, disability and injury and also translates to reduced healthcare costs. The KAEA and its partners have been *Working Together for a Strong, Healthy Kaua'i*.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in favor of this bill.


for (Ms.) Ludvina Takahashi
County Executive on Aging

NSS

TO : COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

SUBJECT: **SB1679 HD1, Relating to Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund**

HEARING: 4:30 pm, Friday, April 3, 2009
Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Appropriate funds to maintain the level of services in education, human services and health

POSITION: **PABEA strong supports SB 1679 HD1.**

RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

- Even though we are in a time of economic crisis, maintaining services in education, human services and health is essential to our future and to preventing expensive social problems and health consequences.
- The funding requests will support many of the recommendations of the Kupuna Caucus of the Legislature to assist families in caring for their frail and disabled members, such as Kupuna Care, respite services, developing the ADRC's and other important services. These are priority programs of PABEA and we strongly urge you to support funding for these programs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



House FIN Cmte
Fri, April 3, 2009
4:30 pm
room 309

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

April 1, 2009

TO: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund- **SUPPORT**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Finance Committees, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is the largest professional organization for social workers in Hawaii. We are testifying in **SUPPORT of SB 1679 SD2 HD1.**

During the past decade, the state has been slowly handing over its responsibility of providing direct services to individuals and families to the private, nonprofit sector through purchase of service contracts. The Governor in her state of the state address was proud of the many achievements the state has made working with its' community partnerships. However, now when the state is in a fiscal crisis, the state is cutting funds to those contracts. This will ultimately result in dismantling many of the programs that the state was proud of.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) is a policy organization that works on federal and state fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals. In a report in February 2008, CBPP cautioned states from implementing across the board cuts to address its fiscal crisis. Instead CBPP fiscal advisors recommended that policy makers be more careful about cutting programs that affect low-income residents. They encouraged the use of rainy day funds to minimize the need to cut programs that are designed to assist state's residents the most during economic downturns.

We support the identification of specific programs to receive appropriations from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. This was the intent of how the fund was to be used and it gives you, the Legislature, control of where you would like the money to be spent.

Now is not the time to be cutting services that help vulnerable populations. I urge your favorable consideration of SB 1679 SD2 HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1040, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2009 SESSION

To: House Committee on Finance:

From: Hawaii Disability Rights Center
Re: SB 1679, SD 2, HD 1 Relating To The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009 4:30 PM
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Finance :

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting Senate Bill 1679, SD2, HD1

We are the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We strongly support this bill and are delighted to see the legislature acknowledge that despite our economic difficulties at the moment, we cannot as a society allow the neediest and weakest amongst us to fall through a safety net of basic, necessary services. In recent months, our office has been extensively involved with clients affected by recent budget cuts. We represent many individuals with mental illness who have been affected by cuts in the AMHD Budget. Currently, we are in the midst of representing many families who are affected by the cuts experienced at the Developmental Disabilities Division .

We are particularly concerned that in this area, the problems facing the DD Division have been somewhat self inflicted by the Administration. For the past several years, they have been budgeting year to year with a heightened dependence on emergency appropriations. Last year, the Division requested a larger base budget than they were permitted to seek from the legislature by the Governor. At that time, they were told that if they ran short of funds, they should

simply seek another emergency appropriation. However, this year, the Governor has instructed them they cannot seek that emergency appropriation. That is why they are in the fiscal predicament they face and must cut services.

This example illustrates the importance of securing a solid, accurately planned out, base budget. Recognizing that general funds will be stretched thin to support a variety of necessary and worthwhile efforts, we support this bill and the legislature's desire to use the emergency budget and reserve fund. We believe that the circumstances facing the state justify the use of these funds for these purposes.

We are also pleased to see funds included for respite care. Caregiver burnout is a well recognized phenomenon in these cases. This is where respite care proves to be invaluable as it provides an opportunity for the caregiver to either perform other essential chores or simply avail themselves of a brief time out so they can rejuvenate themselves. This money is extremely well spent from a quality of life and economic perspective. For those reasons, we support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawalpca.net

To: The House Committee on Finance
The Hon. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Hon. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1679, SD 2, HD 1
Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m. agenda, Room 308

The Hawaii Primary Care Association strongly supports this bill to ensure adequate funding for essential services in the face of our state and national economic crisis. Each and every one of the items identified for funding in SD 2, HD 1 is important to the health and well-being of Hawaii. Each contributes substantially to preventing far worse calamities and costs than we currently experience.

The Hawaii Primary Care Association particularly asks your support for:

- Section 14 that calls for adequate funding for health care provided to the uninsured. (\$3.5 million/year was eliminated from the budget).
- Section 17, which would restore funding for the "Keiki Care" program (\$600,000/ year).
- Section 18, which would continue funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative, a program that costs a mere \$550,000 and served 1,667 low income immigrants last year. The program has been funded since 1997. We would note that while the Kalihi-Palama Health Center provides more services than any other provider for this program, the Immigrant Health Initiative has been administered by the Hawaii Primary Care Association under contract with DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for considering the needs of the growing number of uninsured residents of Hawaii, as well as many other people who are more vulnerable than ever during this unsettling time.

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

AFT Retirees
HGEA Retirees
HSTA – Retired
ILWU Retirees
Kokua Council
Machinists Union Retirees
UPW Retirees
ADA/Hawaii
Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition

(Submitted by to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony> April 1, 2009)

Comments of Al Hamai, President, Supporting SB 1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to
the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing by House Committees on Finance
April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m. Conference Room 308

Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and Members,

HARA reiterates its strong support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1. HARA
has nine affiliates, representing 21,000 members.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys from the emergency
and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels
of programs determined to be essential to education, public health,
and public welfare.

The HARA concurs with the purpose and has testified on many bills
before this legislature supporting essential programs in public health
and public welfare, such as the Kupuna Care Program and senior
centers. HARA believes that the use of the emergency and budget
fund is appropriate during these hard times when the need for such
programs is so great and there is a state budget shortfall.

It's the right thing to do.

HARA urges your Committee to approve SB 1679, SD 2, HD1.
Mahalo.

*HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based
organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a
trusted source of information for decision-makers.*



Board of Directors

March 16, 2009

Carolyn Gugelyk
Chair

TO: The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Rick Egged
1st Vice Chair

FROM: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

Susan Todani
2nd Vice Chair

RE: **SUPPORT OF SB1679, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY
AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND**

Faye Chiogioji
Secretary

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009
Time: 4:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 308

Linda Lee
Treasurer

Thomas Barlow, PhD

Gregory Boxold

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Gregory Dunn

My name is Joan Naguwa, Executive Director of Waikiki Community Center (WCC).
Waikiki Community Center **strongly supports SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the
Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.**

David Givens

Maki Kuroda

Waikiki Community Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency which has provided services to
Waikiki's elders since 1978 and currently serves over 500 older persons each year. SB
1679, SD2, HB1 provides funding for the network of senior centers on Oahu that provide
vital fitness, cognitive stimulation, social connectivity, education and case management that
enable thousands of older adults to maintain wellness and age in place for as long as
possible. Passage of this bill is critical to the continuation of services for the elderly people
of Waikiki and other neighborhoods.

David Lewin

Leona Nakaahiki

Jim Nishimoto

Jessica Rich

Sheri Rolf

Chris Tatum

Although all independent nonprofit organizations, the senior centers (Lanakila
Multipurpose Senior Center, Moiliili Community Center, Kapahulu Center and Waikiki
Community Center) named in SB1679, SD2, HD1, collectively provide more than 4,000
older adults with a community-based focal point to receive needed services and activities
that support their independence and avoid pre-mature institutionalization, thereby saving
the State of Hawaii over \$100,000 per person annually in long-term care costs. Waikiki
Community Center provides a wide variety of over 80 educational, recreational and social
services, including health screenings, financial education, physical fitness classes,
information and assistance, counseling and case management by a licensed social worker.

Noel Trainor

Vivian Tsuji

Rodney Wong

Waikiki Community Center, as well as its partner senior centers, utilize a preventative
health, community-based model for services to older adults, with a focus on 3 major areas
which national research documents as imperative to maintaining the ability to age in place:

Joan Naguwa
Executive Director

310 Paoakalani Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Phone: 808 923-1802
Fax: 808 922-2099

- Physical Activity;
- New Learning or cognitive stimulation; and
- Social Connectivity



Aloha United Way

30 Years of Service to the Community
www.waikikicommunitycenter.org

-2-

The importance of this 3 pronged approach is based on the following evidence: The Bureau of Labor and Statistics states that only 2% of adults aged 75 and older are involved in exercise or recreational activity. Fifty-four (54%) percent spent their time watching TV. It is well-established that physical activity has a positive effect on health, leading to better mental health and cognitive functioning. Exercise also reduces the risk of dementia by 50%, even among people who begin exercise after age 60.

According to research at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, "Loneliness and Risk of Alzheimer's Disease", loneliness has a negative impact on cognitive health and increases the risk of dementia. Elders with higher loneliness scores may be twice as likely to develop dementia. In a study of 7 senior centers in 7 states, over 90% of seniors indicate that they have developed important close friendships at the senior center that provide them with needed emotional security.

In general, the Center for Disease

WCC provides its seniors with physical and cognitive fitness and social opportunities, such as hula, dancing, ping pong, etc. For the elders of Waikiki, this is especially important. Approximately 25% of Waikiki's 20,000 residents are over the age of 60 years old. Waikiki has one of the highest numbers of senior citizens per area density on Oahu. Waikiki elders live alone among a proliferation of secured, mixed residential condominiums, and are especially at risk to social isolation and physical and cognitive deterioration. The typical elderly resident is female, mid 70's, living alone, with little or no family support systems nearby. When they become frailer, they have little choices of independent living and are often confused by services available to support them. Waikiki Community Center's continuum of services, ranging from health maintenance activities to case management and counseling provide the needed support to these elders.

Waikiki Community Center and other senior centers are cost-effective, preventative alternatives to costly institutionalization. The investment in senior centers now by the State of Hawaii will save thousands of dollars of long-term care costs in the future.

Two of the senior centers named in this bill, Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center, through Catholic Charities Hawaii, and Moiliili Community Center currently receive funding through the Dept. of Health and are included in the Executive Budget. However, both Waikiki Community Center and Kapahulu Center do not receive such funding and are not included in the Executive Budget. Without the appropriation requested, **Waikiki Community Center is in serious jeopardy of discontinuing its services to seniors in the community.**

We urge your support for the passage of SB1670, SD2, HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony. If you would like further information, please feel free to contact me at 923-1802 or via email, jnaguwa@waikikicommunitycenter.org

We especially support the following programs:

Kupuna Care is a state-funded program that provides assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, dressing and bathing. Services include adult day care, assisted transportation, home delivered meals and personal care. More than 9,200 people in Hawaii received Kupuna Care services in 2008 (according to Child and Family Service). That includes unpaid caregivers and those who provide elder care services to loved ones in the home.

Request: \$1,025,000

Respite Services provide support and relief for family caregivers.

Request: \$500,000

The **Senior Centers** help our kupuna remain healthy, independent, and connected to our communities. They provide a convenient place for exercise, recreation, health promotion, health screening and volunteer activities. Social connectivity and cognitive stimulation are vital to aging well. Funding is needed for four senior centers that serve over 4,000 seniors:

- Catholic Charities (Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center) (\$337,000)
- Kapahulu Senior Center (\$100,000)
- Moiliili Senior Center (\$125,000)
- Waikiki Community Center (\$120,000)

The **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** is a one-stop shop for information on long-term care planning, counseling, assessment, costs and eligible services. It helps people make informed decisions about long-term services and options. Funding is primarily needed to complete the Honolulu website and the Hilo ADRC though the program plans to make ADRC services available throughout the state.

We urge our legislators to provide leadership in reaffirming the appropriate role of government in maintaining safety net services during the current economic downturn. Safety net services require safety net funding. The passage of SB 1679 as an appropriation bill is a prudent cost saving measure. State government can avoid far greater costs in the future by funding essential community services today. Without that funding, today's challenges could easily develop into tomorrow's crises.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii
Immigrant
Justice Center

(Formerly known as Na Loia)
Serving Hawaii's Immigrant
Families and Children

LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII

VOLUNTEER LEGAL
SERVICES HAWAII



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB1679 SD2 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE

Friday, April 3, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, together submits testimony in support of SB1679 SD2 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve and requests amendments.

We represent legal services programs that are essential to public welfare and safety for Hawaii. We often serve as the catch-net for desperate residents who have been otherwise rejected or failed by other services. With the advent of these harsh economic times, the legal service agencies are seeing a greater need and demand for our services, particularly as other safety-net services dissipate. If legal service agencies do not receive funding, many of these residents will simply fall through the safety-net entirely.

Collectively, the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii helped **more than 34,000** impoverished Hawai'i residents receive protection from consumer fraud, access to public assistance; needed representation in family law cases; assistance to prevent homelessness, to eliminate legal barriers to employment, prevent child abuse and improve child outcomes; protection from domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault; and assistance with naturalization. Our services protect the public's basic human rights and address the basic safety needs which are necessary to ensure the health and welfare of those most in need.

The legal services that our programs provide are without a home. Over the last four years, the legislature has provided a grant-in-aid to fund our programs through the Judiciary budget while we attempt to find the best home. While we continue to work on finding the best funding home for our programs, we request that our GIA requests be funded through the 'rainy day' as services that are critically important to the safety net.

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center	\$292,000
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii	\$720,000
Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii	\$400,000
Total:	\$1,412,000

As the economy worsens the need for legal services increases, the services provided by our three programs, among others, is critical to providing a safety net of legal services to ensure access to basic necessities. Please help us continue to help our growing number of impoverished Hawai'i residents.

Sincerely,

Robin Kobayashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center
536-8826

Nalani Fujimori
Interim Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
527-8014

Moya Gray
Executive Director
Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii
528-7051



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: Support for SB1679, SD 2, HD1 - Relating to the Emergency and Reserve Fund

Chairman Oshiro, Members of the Committee

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii wholeheartedly support this measure.

CCCs are community based organizations situated across the State in rural and urban focusing on children with special needs broadly defined. Under the leadership of an elected parent and professional co-chair, the CCCs provide a wide array of resources, community fairs, workshops and participate in local quality assurance activities. They strive to serve as a community voice on behalf of students of having special needs.

Each of our stakeholder groups will be significantly impacted unless these monies are secured for services. The impact of NOT providing these essential services will be felt for many months as students and their families struggle to meet the diverse needs of their children.

It is our experience that the most vulnerable in our society are the first to loose services tot he detriment of society as well as the individual families. We urge the passage of this measure.

Mahalo Nui Loa for this opportunity to submit testimony on this vital measure.

Sincerely,

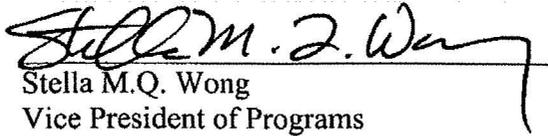
Tom Smith, CCC Legislative Committee Chair

Signatures on file with the CCCO



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: 
Stella M.Q. Wong
Vice President of Programs

DATE of Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009
4:30 p.m., Room 308

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 with Recommendations**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Stella Wong and I am the Vice President of Programs at Catholic Charities Hawai'i. I am testifying in support of **SB1679, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND**, with the following two recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. **Page 6:** Please correct the names of the non-profit organizations listed for **senior center funding**. We also ask for your consideration of funding for the senior centers in the amounts below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Catholic Charities, Ine <u>Hawai'i</u>	\$337,000
Kapahulu senior Center	\$100,000
Moiliili senior <u>Community</u> Center	\$125,000
Waikiki Community Center	\$120,000

2. **Please ADD SUPPORT for the SAFE AND SOUND Program:** The Safe and Sound Program provides treatment for sexually reactive youth (i.e. youth below the age of 12 who are acting out sexually as a result of their own victimization). This is one of the only programs in the State of Hawai'i aimed at providing services to these youth, who without treatment may go on to become adjudicated juvenile and adult sex offenders. Closing this gap in services helps to decrease the number of children who suffer the traumatizing impact of childhood sex abuse by older youths.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i.

With the current economic situation, the numbers of people at risk are growing. There are more people coming to our doors needing food, shelter, jobs and other basics of life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to have to turn away families with young children, frail elders and individuals with disabilities.

SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE HEALTHY START: Losing one's job in many families with young infants adds tremendous stress. Programs such as Healthy Start play a critical role, pro actively, in facilitating positive parenting in stressful times and has been proven to prevent child abuse. Of the 17,000 births a year in Hawaii, about 4,000 babies and their families are screened and assessed to be offered Family Support Services.

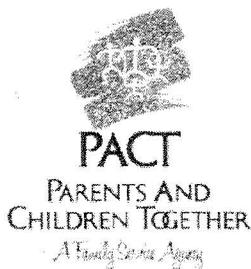
SUPPORT FOR SENIOR CENTERS, KUPUNA CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICES: Cuts to services for senior citizens and individuals with developmental disabilities place these vulnerable populations at risk of costly institutionalization for which government, and taxpayers, will eventually bear the burden.

The decision of the State of Hawaii to direct all Stimulus FMAP (Medicaid) funds to address the State deficit and not use any of these funds toward provision of actual Medicaid services will have tremendous impact on vulnerable populations unless funding is made available through this bill.

The safety net for all social services that affect our most vulnerable in the state is getting very thin and will soon be in shreds if nothing is done. There will be many more people faced with health and safety issues and it will cost the State, and taxpayers, more money in the long run if we do not **do what we can now** to maintain these at risk populations in the community.

I'm sure I don't have to say it but "**It's Raining.**" Please help restore programs to protect the most vulnerable in this State. I strongly urge your committee to pass SB1679, SD2, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 535-0889 or swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.



1485 Linapuni Street, Suite 105
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
Tel. (808) 847-3285
Fax (808) 841-1485

OAHU PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY TEEN CENTER

CPS VISITATION CENTERS

EARLY HEAD START/
HEAD START

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

FAMILY PEACE CENTER

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

HANA LIKE HOME
VISITOR PROGRAM

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

KANEOHE COMMUNITY
FAMILY CENTER

KPT FAMILY CENTER

OHIA - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHELTER

RESPIRE CARE

MAUI COUNTY PROGRAMS

FAMILY PEACE CENTER

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

LANAI INTEGRATED SERVICES

KAUAI COUNTY PROGRAMS

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

MEMBER:

CWLA

ALOHA UNITED WAY

COA

**TO: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance**

**FROM: Ruthann Quitiquit
President & CEO
Parents And Children Together**

DATE: April 2, 2009

**SUBJECT: SB 1679, S.D.2, H.D.1 -- Relating to the Emergency and
Budget Reserve Fund**

My name is Ruthann Quitiquit. I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together. I strongly urge you to support **SB 1679**, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, aka, "the rainy day fund." In 1999 this fund was created to respond to "...times of emergency, economic downturn, or unforeseen reduction in revenues." I believe we can all agree that Hawaii's economy is in crisis and that now is the time to access the "rainy day fund."

Parents And Children Together has been a provider of Healthy Start services since 1981 and prior to that, had been providing home visitation services to at risk families through our Hana Like Home Visitor Program. In past years, we have also provided services to children diagnosed with autism. Today, we continue our commitment to meet the mental health needs of adolescents through our Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy programs.

If the global economic condition worsens, as it is expected to, those most vulnerable will bear the brunt of its impact. The purpose of **SB 1679**, SD2, HD1 is to appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget fund to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public healthy and public welfare. It supports the reasons for the creation of the "rainy day fund" and the time to act is now.

I strongly urge you to support the passage of **SB 1679**, SD2, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

958' TIN LANE
Hon. HI 96817
Phone: (808) 845-8578
Fax: (808) 841-0265

CLINIC:

915 N. KALIHI AVENUE
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 848-1188
Fax: (808) 841-0265

KALIHII-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER
Hale Ho'ola Hou – House of New Life

To: **The House Committee on Finance**
The Hon. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Hon. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Darrin Sato, Chief Operating Officer

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1679, SD 2, HD 1
Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m. agenda, Room 308

Kalihi-Palama Health Center, is the health center which serves the largest amount of uninsured and immigrants in the State of Hawaii. Kalihi-Palama Health Center strongly supports this bill to ensure adequate funding for essential services for the uninsured. Each of the items identified for funding in SD 1679 is important to the health and well-being of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Primary Care Association particularly asks your support for:

- Section 14 that calls for adequate funding for health care provided to the uninsured. (\$3.5 million/year was eliminated from the budget).
- Section 17, which would restore funding for the "Keiki Care" program (\$600,000/ year).
- Section 18, which would continue funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative, a program that costs a mere \$550,000 and served 1,667 low income immigrants last year. The program has been funded since 1997. KPHC serves approximately 65% of those served under the Immigrant Health initiative. Program. It should also be noted that these monies an program are different than the uninsured dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for considering the needs of the growing number of uninsured residents of Hawaii, as well as many other people who are more vulnerable than ever during this unsettling time.



Aloha United Way

KALIHII-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit, federally qualified, community health care center.

TOTAL P 02

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

P.02

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Finance
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Friday, April 3, 2009; 4:30 p.m.

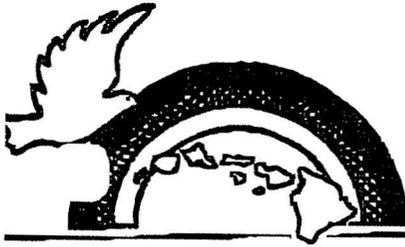
**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1, which appropriates moncoys from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health.

The ILWU represents 20,000 active members and thousands more retirees who live on all major islands. Many of the programs identified in S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1 are invaluable to our members and retirees. These programs include Kupuna Care, respite services, the Hcalthy Aging Partnership, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, senior centers, and Hcalthy Start. Without funds, these programs would be severely cut back or eliminated entirely.

While we realize that the State has a huge budget shortfall and is looking for ways to cut expenses, these programs are not only needed by their clients but should be seen as helping to stimulate the economy by keeping people employed. And the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, or "Rainy Day Fund," is intended to be used for precisely the situation the State finds itself in. In good times, we save money; in bad times, or "rainy days," we spend to rejuvenate the economy--spending to stimulate.

We view this expenditure as an investment in the well-being of our community. We hope you will agree and pass S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.



The Arc of Kauai

for Children and Adults with Disabilities

3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766, Phone (808) 245-4132, Fax (808) 246-1721

April 2, 2009

Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Ellen Ching and for the past 25 years, I have served as the Executive Director of The Arc of Kauai. The Arc of Kauai is a private non-profit organization that was formed by parents in 1981. Our primary mission is to secure for all people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to realize their goals and to choose where and how they learn, live, work and play. To this end, The Arc of Kauai develops implements and maintains a variety of programs and services for approximately 191 individuals.

I am writing this letter in strong support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1.

This bill will restore funding for the Department of Health's Respite Program, the Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) Program and the DD/MR Waiver Program.

The budget cuts have resulted in the termination of the PICL Program and the loss of \$395,505.00 in services to children and adults on Kauai. The budget reductions to the DD/MR Waiver Program at a minimum will result in the loss of \$173,127.00 in services. The full impact of the loss of DD/MR services is still unknown as families are appealing the budget cuts and service reductions.

The real tragedy however is human suffering and the burden this puts on our families...a single elderly mom with two adults with developmental disabilities that was counting on the PICL funds to provide services to her son for eight weeks while she is in Honolulu with her daughter who needs treatment for breast cancer. She was also counting on MR/DD services for her daughter whose prognosis is about another 4 years.

The Arc of Kauai Testimony Re: SB 1679, SD2, HD1

Page 2

April 2, 2009

On December 24, 2008, Christmas Eve, a mother suddenly dies and leaves behind a grieving family that includes an ailing husband and two daughters, one with developmental disabilities and one without.

Her daughter moves her sister with a developmental disability into her home, where her sister shares a room with one of her two teenage daughters. She doesn't even know her sister's social security number, and isn't her guardian so she is unable to get any of the information she needs to provide the care for her sister.

On January 3rd, they bury their mom.

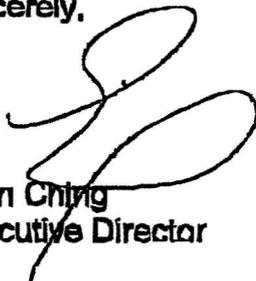
On the following week, a letter was received telling her that she had less than 1 week to make a decision to cut her sister's services which will result in the loss of one whole day of service. Both she and husband work and cannot take care of her sister during the week.

Right now, her sister still wants to go "home", when she is out of her sister's sight, she throws a tantrum and BM's in her pants. She has stolen niece's Christmas money and destroyed her niece's things. It has been a hard 3 months, on Friday she got a disciplinary call from her daughter's school. This lady is doing all she can - why aren't we?

While we are fully aware that budget cuts are necessary, we do not believe that the process in which families were asked to make these cuts was fair or equitable throughout the MR/DD Waiver Program. Without clear or full information, most of the families felt intimidated and reduced their services. We hope that should we be faced with a similar situation, a rate reduction will be instituted so that families can continue to support their loved ones with developmental disabilities.

I humbly ask for your support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1 and keeping families whole. Should you need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 245-4132 ext. 0 or 16 or arcklizann@viphawaii.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Ellen Ching
Executive Director**

Hawaii Waiver Providers Association

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•Heaven's Helpers, Inc.

•Ka Lima O'Maui

•Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

•Nursefinders of Hawaii

•Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii

•SECOH

•The Arc in Hawaii

•The Arc of Hilo

•The Arc of Kauai

•The Arc of Kona

•The Arc of Maui County

•The Institute for Family Enrichment

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

State Capitol, House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Wanda Villareal, President
Hawaii Waiver Providers Association

Re: **SB 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPA) is a statewide association comprised of 20 Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Service Providers affording leadership to collaborate and shape the service system to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Founded in 2001, HWPA's mission is to provide the necessary resources to develop, strengthen, and attain the highest standards of excellence for the developmental disabilities community.

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association ("HWPA") submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1, specifically for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Services.

The Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division's ("DOH-DDD") projected budget shortfall for developmental disabilities services in the current fiscal year resulted in immediate mandated budget reductions. Approximately 2,500 individuals statewide with significant disabilities and limited socioeconomic resources were impacted. Families and established human service providers who offer critical programs essential for the health, welfare and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities were also impacted.

The attached position statement details HWPA's significant concerns with the mandated budget reductions. Waiver programs are essential for the health, welfare and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities. The emergency and budget reserve fund in the amount of \$5,400,000 for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver program should be used to maintain the level of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, which will in turn reverse the DOH-DDD's mandated budget reductions as soon as possible.

We humbly ask for your support of Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1 which provides for the return to established funding levels for critical programs and services for our most vulnerable population.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPAA)

Position Statement on Recent Budget Reductions

SYNOPSIS OF SITUATION

Approximately 2,500 individuals statewide with significant disabilities and limited socioeconomic resources were impacted by the recent mandated budget reductions set forth by the State of Hawaii Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division ("DOH-DDD"). The specific reductions have affected the Developmentally Disabled/Mental Retardation ("DD/MR") Medicaid Waiver recipients reducing services for people with disabilities of 15% or greater, depending on the individual or families' utilization rates, effective February 1, 2009.

CONCERNS AND POTENTIAL IMPACT

The primary goal of the DD/MR Waiver is to promote community inclusion in the least restrictive environment and to prevent institutionalization. The Hawaii Waiver Provider Association (HWPAA) is deeply concerned that the budget reductions will reverse the intended goal the Waiver was intended to promote and presents the following concerns and potential impact the service reductions will have.

Lack of Timely Notification

The entire stakeholder community of all participants, families and provider representatives did not receive proper notice and sufficient time to respond, plan and prepare for the reductions. The abbreviated timeline only allowed legal guardians a maximum of ten (10) days to analyze the letter and make the important decision about which services must be immediately reduced. Primary care providers are being forced to make decisions about their own work schedules in order to care for family members. This work schedule reduction will pose undue economic hardship on Medicaid dependent families with limited socioeconomic resources.

Insufficient Notice of the Appeal Process

Individuals and families were not adequately notified and informed of the right and process to appeal the DOH's decision to reduce Medicaid services by 15%.

Lack of Assessment to Determine Risk of Safety and Health Issues

There was an inadequate assessment of safety and health needs to determine the individual health and safety impact of reductions for each service recipient to include identification of alternate resources. This has left recipients without service for a minimum of 1-2 full days a week potentially totaling 15-20 hours per week. There is the potential for care providers to select an unqualified person to support the recipient, further comprising the individual's health and safety.

Individual Plans Being Revised to Meet State Needs

Individual service plans, which are required by the Federal government, are being revised to reflect what the State can afford and not what individuals actually need on a daily basis. Legal guardians and primary care providers unable to retain support may be faced with alternate residential placements for their family members in long-term care facilities, which this program is specifically designed to prevent.

Crucial Services Provided by Agencies Are Compromised

Agencies providing crucial services are reporting actual losses of up to 40%. Operationally agencies will have one week to analyze the impact after receiving final confirmation of each individual's revised service budgets. Provider agencies will need to immediately reduce staff and the availability of services. Service providers will not be able to sustain the loss of business resulting in the closure of provider agencies and ultimately a weaker community infrastructure for persons with severe disabilities.



Child & Family
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Testimony on SB 1679

Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund; Appropriation; Education; Human Services; Health Programs

April 3, 2009-House Committee on Finance-4:30 p.m. Room 308-Agenda #3

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

Testimony presented by Howard S. Garval, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Healthy Start, Hawaii's nationally recognized and evidence-based child abuse prevention program is first cut 29% in August 2008, then cut 17% in February 2009 and has been eliminated from the Governor's proposed budget for FY 10, FY 11. 4,000 families at risk of child abuse will have no alternative program if Healthy Start is gone. At least 100 employees in nonprofit organizations all over the state have already lost their jobs and at least 100 more will be unemployed if Healthy Start is eliminated. This would cost an estimated \$2.5 million in unemployment costs.

Adults struggling with mental illness had their services reduced from 3 hours a week to 3 hours a month in a major budget cut from the Adult Mental Health Division. Many employees were laid off by the organizations that received these funding cuts. Now we hear that the Adult Mental Health Division has run out of funds and providers are not going to be paid until July. Fortunately the Governor at least is proposing \$10 million to help until June 30th.

A 15% cut to services to the developmentally disabled was announced on February 1, 2009. DHS was cut 29%.

How much further can we erode the services to these at risk populations before we are facing tragedies due to child abuse, suicides, or other serious problems?

Child & Family Service **strongly supports SB 1679** because it seeks to protect and/or restore services in key areas of education, human services, and health. This is an excellent use of Rainy Day Funds so that the most vulnerable in our community can continue to receive services that will help them stay safe and maintain or improve their overall functioning. The use of these funds will reduce



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the risk of more serious problems occurring due to programs closing or shrinking. Don't we owe it to our community to protect our keiki, ohana, the mentally ill and disabled, and our kupuna?

I urge you to support SB 1679 and keep enough services in place during these difficult economic times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony today.



Creating solutions. changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawaii

Administrative Offices

710 Green Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.536.1015

Toll Free: 888.241.7450

Fax: 808.536.3765

website: www.EasterSealsHawaii.org

OAHU

Administrative Offices

Adult Day Health Program
at Central Union Church

Assistive Technology
Program

Ewa Adult Day
Health Program

Family Support Services
Program

Kaliua Early
Intervention Program

Kapolei Early
Intervention Program

O'ahu Support Services

Partnerships in Community
Living Program

Suitland Early
Intervention Program

Wahiua Early
Intervention Program

Youth Services Program

KAUAI

Kauai Early
Intervention Program

Kauai Support Services

Kauai Youth Services

HAWAII

Hilo Early
Intervention Program

Hilo Support
Services Program

Hilo Youth Services

MAUI COUNTY

Adult Day Health Program
at Hale Hauoli

Partnerships in Community
Living Program

Support Services Program

Youth Services

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
State of Hawaii, House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND
BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m. (House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) Program*.

The recent cuts in the MR/DD Waiver program has made an already difficult economic year even more difficult for those most in need. These program cuts have not only affected our participants and families, but have also resulted in a reduction of staff

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 529-1700, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

John F. Howell
President & CEO
Easter Seals Hawaii

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail: FINTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: FINANCE COMMITTEE Hearing
Hearing on: 4-2-09; 4:30 pm; Rm. 309

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Date: April 2, 2009
To: House Health and Human Services Committees
From: Dennis Arakaki
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference
Re: LATE TESTIMONY: In Strong Support – SB 1679, SD2

Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair and members of the House Health and Human Services Committees, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

I wish to speak in strong support of SB 1679, SD2 that details how the legislature will utilize the EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND. This measure is especially critical during this economic crisis and the Legislature's budgetary challenges. No doubt, it is raining, in fact, it is pouring and the most vulnerable amongst us are being swept away in waves of budget cuts, job losses and loss of homes. SB 1679, SD2, HD1 allows the legislature to express its budget priorities and strong desire to maintain services to the neediest of the needy, the children, the elderly and the disabled. It is also important to maintain and enable the viability of the non-profit health and human services programs as their budgets shrink.

We ask that you keep this measure alive as a life-line for health and human services programs, especially for the sake of those who cannot speak for themselves. This measure should be considered as part of a total package during conference to provide relief as you determine the essential areas of services for children, families, the elderly and disabled, in relation to the Federal stimulus package. We will count on the Legislature to develop the list of priorities and will work with you to develop that list. I would suggest that among the items to consider is funding for the General Assistance Program, which will be cut in half next month and to restore funding for Adult Mental Health case management services, that has left many of our seriously mentally ill out in our communities without appropriate monitoring and assistance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this very critical measure.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

April 3, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Finance
Hawaii State Capitol,
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Rainy Day Fund

Dear Representative Oshiro:

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute, testifying in support of SB 1679. The current economic downturn is affecting many businesses and individuals, and necessitating major cuts in the state budget for all services. This bill addresses an urgent need to maintain safety net services to the community for those most in need. One service that was entirely eliminated from the budget is the Hawaii Healthy Start program.

Healthy Start is a critical part of the safety net for overburdened parents in poverty for several reasons.

- Children are at higher risk for abuse in times of economic crisis (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2009); Healthy Start helps vulnerable families to find needed resources in difficult times. Healthy Start reduces risk factors for abuse and poor developmental outcomes.
- Healthy Start averted abuse and neglect for nearly all of over 4,000 high risk families served in 2009. There was only one documented case of physical abuse, a handful of cases of neglect among 49 referrals to child welfare; the others were reports of threatened harm and the program addressed the issues without actual incident.
- Enhanced Healthy Start, which serves families already reported to child welfare is not a substitute for Healthy Start, which actually identifies and serves high risk families before abuse/neglect occur.
- Healthy Start has an identified cost benefit ration of 2.7 to one, per a study by UH Economist David McClain. The costs projected by eliminating Healthy Start are significant at over twice the cost of the 2008 budget.

As you know, there have been meetings of the providers and the Department of Health in regard to proposed models for a more streamlined program model with reduced costs. We hope to finalize on-going discussions with the Department of Health and legislators in regard to Healthy Start on Monday, April 6.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1679.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute.



April 2, 2009

Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee., Vice Chair

Hearing:

4:30 P.M., Friday, April 3, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208

RE: SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Testimony in Support

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance. My name is George Massengale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1679, SD2, HD1, which appropriates moneys form the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was formed in 1959, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

As we all know our State's economic situation is in dire straights and as our economy continues to spiral downward, there will be many more job layoffs. Thousands will lose their health coverage and will join the roles of the uninsured or underinsured. We need to take all appropriated measures to ensure the survival and sustainability of our community health centers. Currently our community health centers provide basic health care services that are critical to the battle against cancer, by providing screenings for various cancers, in addition to follow-up and after care for those individuals who have undergone surgery, radiology, and chemotherapy. **We need to ensure that our community health centers are fully sustained in order to meet the increases in demands that will be placed upon them during these hard economic times.**

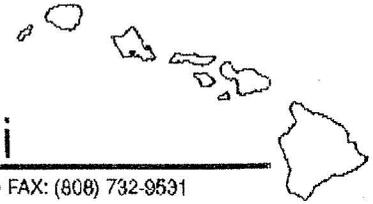
We would urge the committee to take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that our residents will continue to have access to basic health care services, and request the committee pass SB1679, SD2, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Massengale".

George Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



The **Arc** in Hawaii

3989 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD • HONOLULU, HI 96816-4413 • PHONE: (808) 737-7995 • FAX: (808) 732-9531
E-MAIL: info@thearcinhawaii.org • WEBSITE: www.thearcinhawaii.org

Testimony In Support of S.B. 1679, S.D.2, H.D.1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

House Committee on Finance
April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m.
Room 308

Dear Chair Marcus R. Oshiro,
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee and Committee Members:

I am Michael Tamanaha, interim Executive Director of The Arc in Hawaii, a nonprofit agency that provides direct supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in community settings throughout Oahu.

We strongly support the intent of S.B. 1679 which seeks to maintain funding for services essential for the well being of Hawaii's citizens with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

Michael Tamanaha
Interim Executive Director
The Arc in Hawaii

a state organization on mental retardation



Aloha United Way



SECOH

SUPPORTING EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS OF HAWAII

DATE: April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair House Finance Committee &
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair House Finance Committee &
Members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Sandra J. Yoro, Executive Director, SECOH
SECOH Locations: Districts 19, 28, 34, 39, 41, 43

RE: **Support of Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1**
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009

SECOH (Special Education Center of Hawaii), is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services and supports to people with developmental disabilities, or acquired disabilities due to aging or head injuries.

We strongly **SUPPORT S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1**, Relating to The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, which provides appropriations for various "safety net" services including the State of Hawaii Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH-DDD) Developmentally Disabled/Mental Retardation (DD/MR) Medicaid Waiver Service program, the DOH Respite program and the DOH Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) program. **These programs were recently eliminated or reduced leaving people with severe intellectual and physical disabilities and their families to fend for themselves as they watch the programs designed to protect them destroy them.**

The elimination or reduction in services has left the majority of our customers without adult day care services 1-2 days per week and without personal assistance services for up to 20 hours per week. Family members and primary care providers have had to reduce their own work schedules or hire privately to care for their family members causing them economic hardship in already economically challenging times. **Consequently many of our family members and primary care providers albeit devastating are considering out-of-home residential placement of their loved ones into long-term care facilities, which this program was designed to prevent.**

Hawaii's citizens with developmental disabilities due to no fault of their own are an extremely intellectually, physically, and economically vulnerable population. These programs are vital to the survival and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in our society. Our disability service sector has worked tirelessly for the last twenty years to build the DD/MR home and community based waiver program so we could close the state institution Waimano Training School and Hospital and support people with disabilities to have meaningful lives in an inclusive society. **We must not put the lives of these people in jeopardy of institutionalization again.** We have made to much progress to throw it all way.

An appropriation to restore these programs and services at previously prescribed levels will ensure basic health and safety protections and allow us to continue our mission in support of full and meaningful lives for people with developmental disabilities. **I respectfully request and encourage your committees to PASS S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. Thank you!!**



Anne M. Chipchase, MA, CVM

P.O. Box 3319
Honolulu, HI 96801
808-282-3899
annechipchase@yahoo.com

April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State House of Representatives, Committee on Finance
VIA FAX to 586.6001

Testimony in support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1175)

Alohal

Please accept my support of this bill as it pertains to Healthy Aging Partnership and Executive Office on Aging.

These programs are vital in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for our *kupuna*. This is not a statement of idle speculation; the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and Enhanced Fitness Program both have sound scientific evidence of their efficacy and cost efficiency. I believe – as I believe you do – that it is better to spend a dollar now to prevent the need to spend \$3.00 later. This is the kind of savings that evidence shows these programs produce.

I know that this bill seeks release of "rainy day" funds. Admittedly, it is difficult to prove that this is as rainy as it will get. But, as our State and our Country are in what is arguably the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, I believe the time is right.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Chipchase, MA

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Wanda Villareal, Director of Developmental Disabilities Services
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: **Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. ("Goodwill") submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1, specifically for Section 11 which provides funding for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver program and Section 13 which provides funding for the Partnerships in Community Living program. Goodwill receives funding from the Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Division ("DOH-DDD") via a DHS Medicaid Waiver Contract to operate Adult Day Health and Personal Assistance/Habilitation programs for individuals with significant developmental disabilities on Oahu and in East Hawaii (Hilo). Participants in Goodwill's programs and their families are Medicaid Waiver recipients who have limited socioeconomic resources. Medicaid Waiver programs are essential for the public health, safety, welfare and education of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The projected budget shortfall for developmental disabilities services in the current fiscal year resulted in DOH-DDD mandating that individuals in Medicaid Waiver programs reduce services by 15% or greater, depending on the individual or families' utilization rates, effective February 1, 2009. Individuals and families were forced to immediately reduce critical services and necessary programs, such as those operated by Goodwill. In some cases, families are choosing between taking a shift at their jobs or caring for their dependent disabled family member creating more difficult economic circumstances for families.

In addition, since services have been reduced, Goodwill has also felt the effects resulting in our need to cut back our staff who provide direct service hours in our Waiver programs, and experienced employees have been laid off. We also had to layoff staff when the Partnerships in Community Living program abruptly ended.

Goodwill is in strong support of Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1. The emergency and budget reserve fund of \$5,400,000 should be used to for the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver programs and the Partners in Community Living Program which are essential for the health, safety, welfare and education of individuals with developmental disabilities. The DOH-DDD's mandated budget reductions should be reversed as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: JON HIGA

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I LIKE I LIKE GOOD PROGRAM
I AM NOT SAY ANYMORE
IT HELPED ME BUILD
MY SELF ESTEEM I LEARNED
HOW TO READ MONEY
VIA I GO VISIT INTERESTING
PLACES

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Armando Dickerson Jr

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I like come to Goodwill beuz
I can go out and do my goals.
I like hens around with Felicia &
Shelli.

Armando Dickerson Jr

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Deborah Kimitsuka*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

*Why can't I have my five
Days back?*

*and why the budget
cuts?*

*Because I learn alot at
Goodwill.*

*Plus we make lots of
friends.*

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Stephen ToInoue

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I NEED THESE SERVICES SO.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

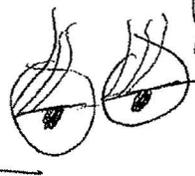
From: Deanne Pitts K.H.

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hip
Hop

b b why I like good NOT BAD good 
friend's good will we happy
To be with help help good will
Fun DANCE's happy special.
I like COLOR friend's DO
yol yol DANCE's Party good
will good love good's
at special Olympical

2  help
special.help. → PEOPLE 1000.00

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I like coming to Program
and having Fun and

going out with my friends.

I learn new things at
goodwill.

Keli Shizuma

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Olivia Lemut @ @

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I love to attend Goodwill
Program I learned
how to catch the city
bus I go out every day
I have a lot of friends

Olivia

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Virginia 24

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I LIKE GOING TO GOODWILL
BECAUSE I ENJOY BEING WITH
MY FRIENDS AND LEARN NEW
THINGS. I'M LEARNING HOW TO
WRITE, COMPUTER, AND GOING
MY PROGRAM, I HAVE
NO PLACE ELSE TO GO. OUT

Virginia Lee

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: CHRISTINA MORANOS

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

IFB (PARTICIPANT WAS ASKED)

I LIKE TO COME TO PROGRAM AND
BE WITH MY FRIENDS. I LIKE BEING
ABLE TO DO MY HOMEWORK AND
LEARN NEW THINGS. I WORK ON MY
ABC'S.

CM

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Maggie Tapua

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am 83 years old I met + came
+ Program to be with my
and still ~~save~~ need my
Program to learn. I smart. because
of My program.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Edward Pinarc

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I LIKE COME TO
PROGRAM.

I HAVE MANY FRIENDS HERE
I AM LEARNING SIGN
LANGUAGE.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: GENE SKUROIWA

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I WANT TO GO TO GOODWILL
- I DONT WANT STAY HOME

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Sang Min Byun

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I CAN'T LOOSE THE
SERVICES:
I LIKE TO GO TO GOODWILL
WITH MY FRIENDS.

SANG STATED:

" I LEARNED ENGLISH
AT GOODWILL. — "

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Freilto

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund



L N P + W C H O S E

FREDDIE STATED:
" I LEARNED TO GET
ALONG WITH MY FRIENDS,
I DON'T FIGHT ANY MORE. "

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Kimberly Mathis

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I like to come to Goodwill
I have lots of friends here
I volunteer I sing I help

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Edward R. Ho

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I can't LOOSE THE
SERVICES
I LIKE TO GO TO GOODWILL
WITH MY FRIENDS
I LEARNED ENGLISH
AT GOOD WILL

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

Lawrence Carrales

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I love Goodwill, I like Special Olympics, I don't want to stay home. Goodwill is good. All my friends are there.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

DONNA KAI

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I love Goodwill
I dress nice
e u8r y d4 I W o r n a r d

a + IHS and KAKNITROO.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Zimberley C. Makipito*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I like Goodwill, I never I like to
stay home, I make my own

Handi-van arrangements to come
to Goodwill, I like to bowl, to dance,
to shop, to buy my own lunch,

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

James Soto

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

my mom like Goodwill. I like
MY SISTER Goodwill like I learn
to be somebody. I volunteer and
love. MY work. I learn to talk.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

Donald Sauer

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I love Goodwill. My friends
are here. I like coming here
everyday. I learn lots of
good things. We shop, volunteers,

dance, perform for May, have
picnics, order our own food, watch
movies, share and care about each other.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: MILTON K MOTONAGA

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I WANT TO go to good^{will} 5 DAYS A WEEK BUT
CANNOT.

MILTON K MOTONAGA

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: BLANE SARDINHA

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

MY NAME IS BLANE, AND I
YOU GUYS SPREAD AND I
GONNA STAY HOME AND ONE
AND BEIBORINCILIKE
GET TO GO OUT IN THE
COMMUNITY AND ME A
LOT OF PAIENAS AT GOODWILL
AND I'M HAPPY BECAUSE
I LOVE PEOPLE AND I
ALSO MY STAFF

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Salvador*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I want to have my PA back.

I need help when I am in
the community. If I have help
they can teach me how to catch
the bus, and how to be safe

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Jen Chong

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

ADULTS NEED CARE TOO. PLEASE DO NOT
NEGLECT OR OVERLOOK THE NEEDS OF THE
PAB/WAIVER PROGRAM. SERVICES SO VERY
MUCH NEEDED ARE TAKEN AWAY LEAVING
SOME TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. ADULTS
ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES
LEAVING THE ADULT DD POPULATION OFTEN
OVERLOOKED, AND PLEASE LEND YOUR WEIGHT
TO THEIR VOICE DURING THESE FINANCIALLY
STRAPPED TIMES.

- Jen Chong

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: KAMMY KAM

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

" THE BUDGET CUTS MAKE ME FEEL SAD. "

KAMMYLIKAM

**To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Financial Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Financial Committee**

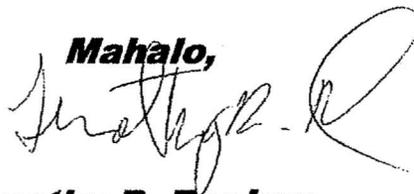
From: Timothy R. Renken (Goodwill Industries of Hawaii)

Date: April 3, 2009

**Re: Testimony in support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency
And Budget Reserve Fund**

**My service hours has been decreased because of budget cuts in the
Financial difficulty of only here in Hawai'i, but also in the nation as well.
So please, I will need to get my hours back so that way I can come
to Goodwill full-time and get my 5-days back. I don't want to lose any
more hours or days on my part. Thank You for taking the time to
consider this proposal for the Services Budget cuts. Aloha!**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy R. Renken", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy R. Renken

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Susanne Lee
45-421 Lolopua Pl.
Kaneohe, Hi 96744

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

My name is Yvonne Nono and I am Susanne Lee's P.A. I work with Suzy on a one to one basis. Her hours have been cut from 8 hrs a day 5 days a week to 6.75 hrs 5 days a week. Both her parents work and are not always able to be home when Suzy gets home. There are many times when she starts screaming and crying when she tries to unlock the door and can't get the key to work because of frustration and ~~anxiety~~ anxiety. Suzy's only outlet is coming to the Goodwill program. Her staff and her peers beside her parents are a very important part of her support system. Please reconsider her situation because being home by herself is a safety issue, a highly safety issue.

Yvonne J. Nono s/s - PA
x 

MR. JUSTIN W

DAYS

MY HOURS AT Goodwill HAVE BEEN CUT TO 19
~~HOURS~~ A MONTH. ON THE DAYS THAT I DON'T
COME TO Goodwill 'S ADH PROGRAM I HAVE TO STAY
HOME BY MY SELF AND THAT MAKES ME SAD BOTH
MY PARENTS WORK DURING THE DAY AND I AM NOT
ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE ALL MY
FRIENDS ARE AT Goodwill I HAVE TEARIEDALOT AT
Goodwill PLEASE RECON SIDER MY CASE

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Bert Kono

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

In this time of uncertainty and distress
many of our staff have lost their jobs,
while others have had their hours cut.
This is very hard for them as well
as the population they serve.

It is imperative that the disabled
population's services remain intact and to
keep some sort of order in their individual
lives.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Felicia Callean

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am writing this testimony on behalf of the employees in the Human Services field, and the participants of Goodwill. I have been in this field for 5 years, and found that true happiness is found in the lives of helping the developmentally disabled have a life. Without us there for them, they will not be able to learn how to socialize with each other, how to respond to the general public, how to learn not to be taken advantage of from people, and how to become model citizens. Without them, we would not learn how valuable this population is and how much we learn from them. They teach us how to be better within ourselves and towards others. They teach us what unconditional love really is, and how not to judge others. Everyone of our participants deserves to have a life just like everyone else. Goodwill provides them this opportunity to become self sufficient individuals to become a part of the community. The people who work with this population is also special in their own way as they put their heart in and soul into helping these individuals become independent. Each employee in this field has made great achievements in teaching the participants a skill that they needed to become a responsible adult. The Human Services program needs the money to continue in making the developmentally disabled population capable citizens who are able to have the chance of having a normal life.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From:

JUST + 10000-1

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I need help with my life.
Goodwill helps me learn new
things and to be safe in the
community. Please give me back
my help.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: JAVIA GIBSON

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Re: Aloha,

I am one of the staff here @ Woodwell and when I see my clients get hurt, I get hurt. Because I know how they love to come to the program. And I really feel that by them coming to program, it make them happy. Each and every one of my clients said that, if he/she stay home, it make them sad, and they don't wanna stay home it's boring. I really feel, that if you gonna cut their services like they said they would be so unhappy. I just hope that be best for them. And as a Christian my heart goes out to them, please help them, remember now! This is the island of Aloha,

Mattalo,
God Bless

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Henrietta Nihipali (direct service worker)*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Please help the disability population restore their services. Many of the participants are unhappy and sad they can't attend waiver program 5 days a week or having PA services which helped them to learn living skills. Without their services, many participants are alone at home doing nothing. Please help this population, they need their services. This is putting a hardship on them and their families.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Kenneth Serra

KNOJ

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I want to come
5 days to Goodwill.

I have nothing to
do at home and just
stays in my room.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Greg Smith 

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am upset and disappointed
not to come goodwill like
before. I can come only
4 days instead of 5 days
I would like to come
to Goodwill everyday just
like before.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Bryant Nakarishi

Date: April 3, 2009

BRYANT

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

My P.A. (Personal Assistant) services
have been cut and I would
like to have them back.
I like to do things with
her but can't because of
the budget cuts.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Stephanie Velasco*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: **Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

*because of the Budget cut
I come to program only four days
a week I want to come to program
five days a week now that I don't
have all my services I am really sad
help me get back my services*

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: mehce Lani

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

~~AM~~

I'm really sad because

my PA service was cut.

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Tommy T SHIRAI*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Please help me get my PA services
back. my PA use to help me
do my food shopping

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: *Alino J Costa*

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I'M UPSET AND SAD THAT
MY PA SERVICES WAS CUT. I
NEED MY PA SERVICES BACK
AND TEACHING ME TO BE
INDEPENDENT, AND I MISS MY
PA WORKING WITH ME

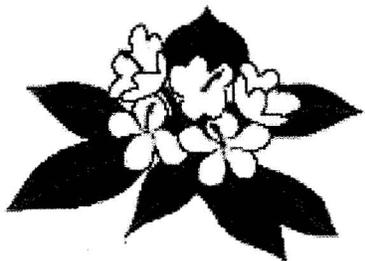
To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

From: Justin Lee

Date: April 3, 2009

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1679 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I would like to continue coming to the ADH program 5 day a week. I have been learning alot ~~at goodwill, it my~~ at goodwill and all my friends are here at goodwill. If my hours ~~get cut~~ I would have to stay home by my self as I am not allowed to go out by myself every one here need out services we are like a big family, because we all help each other out.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov
April 3, 2009

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Mr. Steve Laracuento, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Paul Ban, *Liaison
to the Superintendent*
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Mary Ellis
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Martha Guinan
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Mr. John Hinkle
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. June Motokawa
Ms. Kristy Nishimura
Ms. Connie Perry
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezendes
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. August Suehiro
Ms. Judy Tonda
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Mr. Duane Yee
Mr. Shawn Yoshimoto

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: **SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY
AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Special Education Advisory Council, Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of **SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1** to utilize monies from the emergency and budget reserve fund to avert detrimental budget cuts to services related to education, health and public welfare. We are particularly concerned with placing a priority on funds essential to the maintenance of educational benefit for students with disabilities and to services required by federal mandate under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SEAC is also in favor of using these emergency funds to maintain a safety net for individuals with developmental disabilities under the Developmental Disabilities Waiver and the Partnerships in Community Living Program to allow them to pursue their vocational and independent living goals and to acquire assistive technology to support communication and learning. We likewise endorse continued respite services to families of individuals with disabilities, as these services enable families to better participate in their child's educational and vocational goals by providing periodic breaks from caregiving.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions regarding our position, you are welcome to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

Testimony in support of SB 1679, SD 2, HD 1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Date: Friday, April 03, 2009
Time: 4:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.

TO: The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana *Rose Nakamura*

SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting SB 1679, SD 2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

As Administrator of Project Dana, I wish to take this opportunity to strongly support SB 1679, SD 2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. This particular bill appropriates moneys from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health, effective July 2009 – 2010 and 2010-2011.

Project Dana is a volunteer caregivers program that provides support services to homebound frail elders, disabled persons and family caregivers to ensure their well-being and independence. The Project's mission is to recruit, train and mobilize volunteers to fill critical service gaps by working with community agencies and provide a continuum of services for Hawaii's needy population.

I am particularly concerned and fully support the appropriation measures of Kupuna Care, especially on Oahu. There is an ever growing wait list and this wait list has increased to almost 14% in one year. Many older adults have difficulty with daily living activities. They are isolated, shut-ins, lonely, helpless and need some assistance in coping with daily living. Kupuna Care is a program that is one of the most cost effective programs and it provides vital and critical services to the growing population of older adults. Every one living in Hawaii will be in this position.

I am also in support of funding the Aging and Disability Resource Center's development and Senior Centers.

Aging in place is the desire for everyone in Hawaii and for many assistance of various nature i.e. case management, meals on wheels, transportation, respite, personal care, attendant care (volunteer services) is increasing due to a growing population of older adults and the decline of Hawaii's economy.

Funding for SB 1679 SD2 HD1 is strongly in need of your support as health and human service programs are vital to the quality of life for Hawaii's Kupuna.

Thank you very much

April 1, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, FIN
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, FIN
Members of the FIN Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: SB1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Hearing: 4/3/09 at 4:30 p.m.

Dear Representatives Oshiro, Lee, and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

Although Enhanced Healthy Start is an excellent program providing services to families **after** they have been identified with abuse and/or neglect and obviously very important to continue to support, it has a fundamental **difference** with the **Healthy Start Program** which works on prevention of child abuse and/or neglect by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

The State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program** modeled after nationally and internationally for its effectiveness works with low-income at-risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old. The **Healthy Start Program** is funded through the State's Department of Health and it has suffered deep cuts at the peril of non-existence. I humbly ask you to support provision for its continuity. We are counting for the viability of the program once Federal funds and other private resources are available.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration to this important matter,

Cynthia Koziolas, M.A.
Director of Clinical Services
Maui Family Support Services
(808) 242-0900 x 233

Testimony of
Jeffrey Sakamoto
Before the Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
April 3, 2009

**Senate Bill No. 1679 S.D. 2 H.D. 1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Chairman Oshiro and Vice Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Sakamoto and I am a senior in high school and an Eagle Scout with Troop 115, Boy Scouts of America, Aloha Council.

Recently, I did my Eagle Project at Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. Our Troop built a sitting area under a shady tree giving the Seniors a place to rest while waiting for their rides. The Seniors before that use to wait in the parking lot which was not a really safe place for them. While I learned valuable lessons doing my project like how to secure resources, manage a project, and work as a team, I was mostly inspired by the Seniors at Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. They provided expert advice as we poured concrete, we played with them cards, and we even sang with them during their sing-along. They even joined us for lunch and they gave us leis showing their gratitude to our Troop.

When I read the paper in December that Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center was in financial difficulty and could possible close, I was shocked. I can't imagine where these Seniors would go if they didn't have the Center. Our Troop was inspired by these active Seniors having fun and socializing during our time there. I have grandparents who are still alive and I know how important it is to keep them active. I play Wii Fit with my grandma and grandpa. I'm lucky they are still with me to share in my life. I hope that you will continue funding this very important community need so that other grandchildren like me can enjoy their grandparents as well.

I know that Senate Bill No. 817 which was to provide specific funding to the Senior Centers was deferred and included as part of Senate Bill 1679 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 so I respectfully request the Committee pass Senate Bill No. 1679 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 for the necessary funds for the Lanakila Multi Purpose Senior Center and for all those programs that this bill will help to support our community. If you need more information from me, please contact me at (808) 292-2137 or email me at surfaboy808@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).**

My name is Tisha Takazawa and I work with individuals with disabilities every day. I support SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1 because the money would help us to support individual with disabilities. Benefits of this program include Socialization, Community Access, Improving Life Skills, developing self-worth, etc. It is a fact that there is a high rate of isolation among individuals with disabilities and one of the focuses of this program is to support our participants to become contributing members of their community. A lot of the participants I work with would be left home alone or have to be put into a care home if they were unable to receive services. We have done simple things such as help individuals get to their doctor's/dentist's appointments, learn to cook, clean their home, do the laundry, or personal care items such as taking a bath, assist in feeding, accessing the community or even volunteering and getting a job. All of these items are meaningful to these individuals. These services help individuals with disabilities to have "normal" lives and to be "just like everyone else." Our participants are able to go out into the community through our program. Without it, they would be left home alone and for many of these individuals, it would be a major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 640-4328 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Tisha Takazawa
27-1049 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Pepe'ekeo, HI 96783

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing this letter in favor of SB 1679 SD2 HD1, specifically, to appropriate money from emergency and budget reserves to maintain levels of funding for the Healthy Start Program at Maui Family Support Services. In anticipation of decreased funding, MFSS has already laid off or reduced hours for the majority of employees in Healthy Start. The agency has also discharged approximately one half of families who no longer meet the new requirements for service (low income with high risk factors for child abuse and neglect) now recommended by the Department of Health. The agency is also examining more cost effective ways that services can be delivered in group settings. Appropriating this money will allow MFSS to maintain the integrity of the Healthy Start Program by offering services to families who will most benefit.

Studies show that Healthy Start 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.

Family Support Workers visit families with keiki ages 0-3 years, providing child development information, with an evidence-based curriculum (Nurturing Parenting) used nationally in family strengthening programs. They 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 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 consult with a Clinical Specialist to resolve these issues.

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 lot of needless suffering. Please continue to fund Healthy Start!

Sincerely,

Antonette Rodriguez, MA

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

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Testimony Supporting S.B# 1679, S.D. 2, HD 1: “Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund”

April 3, 2009

4:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Individual Testimony of
Audrey Suga-Nakagawa

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. # 1679 – “Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund” which provides temporary supplemental funding for Hawaii’s safety net programs especially for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and disabled persons. One of the safety net programs included in this bill is the Aging and Disability Resource (also refer as ADRC) Project, listed under SECTION 10. This bill supports the ADRC Project development and coordination that are currently underway.

The ADRC is part of a national effort to establish a single-entry, one-stop service that help people make informed decisions about long term services and options. In a collaborative effort under the U.S. Health and Human Services, the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services had awarded 47 states and territories throughout the U.S including Hawaii. State grantees received \$800,000 for a three year period to start up the ADRC sites in its respective communities.

The goal of the ADRC program is to empower individuals to make informed choices and streamline access to long term support which includes in-home care, community based programs and institutional services such as nursing homes and other programs that are designed to help the elderly and individuals with disabilities including the younger adult population. In many communities, long term support services are administered by multiple agencies, and have complex, fragmented, and often duplicative intake, assessment, and eligibility functions. It is often difficult and confusing for consumers to access information and navigate the long term care system. A single, coordinated system of information and access for all persons seeking long term care support minimizes this confusion, enhances individual choice and supports informed decision making. The ADRC reduces duplication in paperwork and streamlines the process to find and apply for needed services in a timely manner.

There are two pilot sites on the islands of Hawaii and Oahu. The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), which is administratively attached to the Department of Health, serves as

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Testimony: SB 1679

April 3, 2009

the lead agency for Hawaii's ADRC project and provides the administrative oversight. In partnership with EOA, the Hawaii County Office of Aging and the City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division are the first two project sites under the federal grant which began in 2005. The Hawaii County ADRC site had received additional funding from the County Council to lease the former Sun Sun Lau Chinese restaurant in Hilo to be the physical site for the project, and celebrated its grand opening in November 2008. The site is being co-located by the Hawaii County Office of Aging, agencies under the Department of Human Services and Department of Health, and other public and private aging programs and long term care services providers.

The Honolulu ADRC is a virtual model and developing a comprehensive resource website and telephone systems to provide better information access to consumers. In conjunction with the Kauai County Agency on Elderly Affairs, the Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division is building the statewide ADRC website template which can be used by all 4 counties to upload aging and disability services, programs, agencies in their respective communities into the website. The statewide website is targeted to go live in May 2009.

Hawaii is reaching the end of the federal grant funding and seeking additional support from the State Legislature to continue its work with the original two ADRC pilot sites and begin the start up for Kauai and Maui. Expansion plans are already underway for the Hamakua district of the Big Island, and with satellite outreach to the rural communities of Waianae, Hauula and North Shore on Oahu. The ADRC is a collaborative project that has been embraced by all three levels of government – federal, state and county and with strong support from the private stakeholders of the aging, health and disability communities, to strengthen the long term care infrastructure in Hawaii.

Throughout the country, states are initiating the ADRC expansion beyond their original pilot sites as they are demonstrating to be a proven model for providing information and long term care options to the public. With major cutbacks on social and elder care programs during this difficult economic period, ADRC plays an even more critical role as families urgently search for reliable and unbiased information that will help them make informed decisions about the care for their loved ones. It is emerging as the safety net for elder care and social service programs throughout the U.S. as people turn to the ADRC as the first stop to obtain assistance with their long term care needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

From: Martha Guinan, family member
To: House Finance Committee,
Hearing scheduled: Friday, April 3, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
2 copies

Dear Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. This bill includes appropriations for "safety net" services - Dept. of Health Respite, the DD Division DD/MR Medicaid Waiver and Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) programs, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, mental health services, Kupuna care services, senior centers, and others.

My son Ryan, who has Down syndrome and our family depend on many of these services. He recently turned 21 and aged out of the Department of Education last year. He has struggled to find employment and without the Medicaid Waiver he will not have the support he needs to be gainfully employed. No one is willing to hire him without job coaching or other supports that Waiver provides. In this time of economic distress it is even harder to find him a job. Without the waiver he stays home and either my husband or myself would not be able to work. We don't have extended family here in Hawaii so are dependent on paid caregivers to be with him. His main joy in life and his calling is dancing. Without additional funds, a job or PICL would provide he couldn't afford to take dance lessons.

Please don't reduce these programs' budgets. It is critical to ensure a good quality of life for our family.

Sincerely,

Martha Guinan

2920 Ala Ilima #603
Honolulu, HI 96818
833-1753
mmguinan@gmail.com

Thursday, April 2, 2009

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the House Finance Committee

From: Carol Down, Full Life Board Member and Mother of a Developmentally Disabled Child

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308

**Re: HB 1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency Budget for the Dept. of Health DD Division
DD/MR Medicaid Waiver**

I strongly support HB 1679 SD2 HD1.

I am a mother of a mentally and physically disabled young man. To cut 15% of services to this group of individuals who are defenseless and vulnerable could be devastating to a lot of families.

My son receives services under the DD Division DD/MR waiver. Because he is physically fragile, and needs around the clock supervision, his father is his sole care taker. Having someone so dedicated to my son has made a world of difference in my son's overall welfare. He's happy, healthy, very well taken care of and even making progress in his mental capacity. Granted it's not huge leaps and bounds but any miniscule progress is extremely rewarding in our situation.

Although my husband would be providing the same services to my son, regardless of the cuts in services, most families are not so lucky. Cuts in services to this population can be devastating.

Please have compassion for this defenseless population.

Carol Down

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).**

I am a parent of an adult son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my son is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, either his father or I would have to give up time at work to stay home with our son because he cannot be left at home alone. This puts us at risk for losing our jobs and puts our entire family's well-being in jeopardy. Our son's safety and health is our priority, but to cut off his current services would disengage him from the community, which would be a major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at (808) 989-0426, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Alberdine Pascua
162 Nahale'a Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
 State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State Capitol
 415 S. Beretania Street
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee). Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

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I am a parent of a son with severe physical and mental disabilities due to viral encephalitis at the age of 2 years old. This illness was not because of any neglect on our part. My son, Travis, has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to provide him with a normal life, which he deserves. With the support of these services we were able to go to work as school teachers and spend time raising our other two children. Travis is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen with the opportunity to integrate into our community. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to spend most of his day at home, with very limited activities. Travis is happiest when he is able to socialize in our community under very close supervision and care of his PA. My son, our son, Travis, does deserve the respect and rights due him as a citizen of Hawaii. Please show respect and honor our disabled citizens, too. We are their voices...please hear their needs! Life hasn't been fair to them but we hope you will open your hearts to hear their concerns and needs.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in

Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HS 1. I can be reached at 808-9593644 (unlisted) for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Masuhara

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

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I am a parent of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that her needs are being met and that she is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my daughter is able participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my daughter would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern. For these reasons, I am very upset. Why should our children be punished! It is improper and unprofessional for services to be taken away from these vulnerable and unfortunate kids. Why do our kids have to go without all the time. These funds help my daughter and other individuals with disabilities a "normal" life. My daughter is entitled to these funds.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 854-6833 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Debbie Seghorn

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

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Hello, I am a participant at Easter Seals Hawaii Hilo support services program. Please do not cut my hours any more, as it will make me mad. It will stop me doing my activities I love.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-961-3716 for any further questions.
Sincerely,

Prt of Hilo Support Services Easter Seals.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings -- The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).**

I am a person who receives PAB 1 services through the DD/MR Medicaid Waiver Program. Through this program, I am able to socialize with my friends and make more friends. I am able to exercise every day and stay healthy in a safe environment. I can also work to improve on my life skills such as cooking, budgeting, attending necessary appointments, shopping, etc. I really enjoy receiving services and being a part of my community.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 933-2344 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chloe Awong-Scghorn

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

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I am an individual with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. With the support of these services I am able to access my community and work on developing my life skills. I am also able participate in meaningful activities that allow me to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, I would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern as both my mother and sister work and are busy. Receiving services makes me happy. I do not like staying at home.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be contacted at 16-785 Kikania, Kea'au, HI 96749 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Anna-Lisa Pabro

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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I am a young adult with a disability. Waiver services help me access my community and take care of my personal needs such as banking, grocery shopping and medical appointments. Without waiver services I do not know how I would be able to do these things, because I do not drive. Also since I live on the Big Island, public transportation is very limited and taxis are an expense that I can not afford. Waiver services also have supported me with Special Olympic participation and they provide respite for my great grandmother who also lives with me. I ask that you continue to support these waiver services, without them I would be just staying at home.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-969-7107 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Garcia

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
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We are the parent/sister of an adult with a disability. These services provide my brother with the opportunities to access and be a part of his community. Waiver services have also supported my brother with maintaining his health and safety through exercise and seizure awareness. Without these services my brother would not be able to go out and learn how to be more independent. Instead he would be just sitting at home.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-969-7197/808-854-5171, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Vincelyn Mchau
JoLyn Mchau

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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I am a young adult with a disability. Waiver services help me greatly. I live all by myself on the Big Island. Waiver services have helped me like a family would. Without these services I would not be able to do my grocery shopping, banking, bill paying and attend my doctor appointments. Waiver services also help me access and be a part of my community. I ask that you continue to support these waiver services, without them I would be just staying at home.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-934-9206, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Kyle Nakasone

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

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My name is Nanimahalani Saffery and I am a Community Based Provider/Direct Service Worker for an individual with a developmental disability receiving support from the MR/DD Waiver. I feel that the service and support I provide is really good in helping my participant get out in to the community and work on important life skills goals. Without these services, my participant would not be a participating member of the community and she would not be able to access the community as much as her mother and sister are very busy.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 938-9200 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nanimahalani Saffery

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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I have worked for both DD Division and Healthy Start. These programs are valuable and are not duplicated in the community. DD clients with infants are tremendously assisted by Healthy Start, and DD services provide essential support for health and safety as well as quality-of-life services. Cuts have already been taken by DD clients. Support should not be taken from the most needy among us.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 333-9251 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karen De Soto, ACSW

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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My name is Kaliko Ah Yo and I am a parent of a child with disabilities and a Community Based Provider/Direct Service Worker of a person with a disability. The Medicaid Waiver program supports and makes it possible for our participants to access the community and socialize with others in the community. I have seen my participant improve in her social skills and life skills and can see that these services makes a difference in the lives of the participants. My participant is happy receiving services as she is able to socialize with others and be a part of her community. Without services, my participant's access to the community would be very limited as her mother needs to work.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 989-7685 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kaliko AhYo

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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I am a sibling and caregiver of a person with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my brother. Receiving services has helped my brother be able to live with his family instead of living in a care home, where he wouldn't be happy. Through services, he is able to be more independent and receives the best care possible. He receives help with personal care needs and a lot more. If he lived in a care home, it would cost the state and tax payers a lot more money to care for him and he wouldn't be able to get the quality, 24-hour care he does now. With the support of these services, I know that his needs are being met and that he is safe. My brother is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my brother would be in a care home, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 640-2772 or 15-573 South Puni Mauka Lp. Pahoa, HI 96778 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Harriet Schilling

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

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Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

My name is Gavin-John Mata and I am a Community Based Provider/Direct Service Worker and work with individuals with Developmental Disabilities. I support this bill because these services are important. Participants get to interact with their community and their community gets to interact with them. We are all the same and our participants should be themselves. Without this service, our participants wouldn't be able to access the community and would be left at home majority of the time. Let's help them to become contributing members of the community.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 756-0998 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Gavin-John Mata
2706 Pulima Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

FINTestimony

From: Tammy Ruiz [Tammy@mfss.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: SB1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

April 1, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, FIN
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, FIN
Members of the FIN Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: SB1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Hearing: 4/3/09 at 4:30 p.m.

Dear Representatives Oshiro, Lee, and members of the committee:

I am in strong support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1. Felitti's Kaiser 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide leading to premature death thus highlighting the critical importance of prevention.

Although Enhanced Healthy Start is an excellent program providing services to families **after** they have been identified with abuse and/or neglect and obviously very important to continue to support, it has a fundamental **difference** with the **Healthy Start Program** which works on **prevention** of child abuse and/or neglect by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

The State of Hawaii's **Healthy Start Program** modeled after nationally and internationally for its effectiveness works with low-income at-risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old. Please reinstate the 9 million to the healthy start programs. I humbly ask you to support provision for its continuity. Children are our future. They deserve to have the opportunity for an excellent start in life.

Prevention is critical to prevent repeated generations of domestic violence.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration to this important matter,

Tammy Ruiz
FSW II
Maui Family Support Services (242-0900)

Tammy Ruiz

The Mission of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is to promote healthy family functioning

4/1/2009

by providing supportive services which build on family strengths.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is intended only for the use of the addressee. It may contain information, which is privileged or confidential under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the agent of the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify Tammy Ruiz at 808-242-0900 or via return internet electronic mail at tammy@mfss.org and expunge this communication without making any copies.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is intended only for the use of the addressee. It may contain information which is privileged or confidential under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the agent of the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender at 808.242.0900 or via return internet electronic mail to the sender's address and expunge this communication without making any copies. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Arc in «GreetingLine»
3989 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu Hawaii 96816

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
Hawaii State House of Representatives
www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony

Hearing April 3, 2009 4:30PM
SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1

Testimony of Thomas P. Huber
President, The Arc in Hawaii

Dear Representative Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Arc in Hawaii strongly supports SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1.

SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1 would, among other important purposes, restore recent reductions in Medicaid waiver payments to a large number of persons with developmental disabilities.

These reductions have left many of the people that we serve without vital services that they have come to rely upon. In a typical case, our clients have lost one out of their five regular days of Adult Day Health services. This has denied them of meaningful habilitation services and daily activities for a full day. In addition, finding alternate care for these persons on the service day that has been eliminated has caused a strain on the working families who must now care for these individuals on one work day per week.

The curtailment of service has adversely affected the health and safety of many of our clients.

The Arc in Hawaii serves over 170 persons with developmental disabilities, many on a 7-day 24-hour basis, more than 90 of whom receive Medicaid waiver services.

Thank you for considering this important Bill.

Thomas P. Huber
President

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)*.

I am parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services, my husband and I are able to go to work, as well as provide services to our son. My other son and his girlfriend also provide services through the MR/DD Waiver to our son which allow my husband and I to be able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. My husband and I's joint income is what holds our home together, if my son were not able to be provided with these services, I would have to give up my job, and our economic hardship would become more stressed. Through the MR/DD Waiver program my son is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, which is not possible due to the extent of his disability, as well as disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-982-7843, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Karen, & Ricky SR. Torres and entire Family.
16-634 Old Volcano Rd.

Ke'auhi 982-7843
982-7843

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Wuiver, and the DD Division Partnerships In Community Living (PICL Programs).*

Aloha, I am sending you this because I feel that these people needs all the hours and help they have been getting. It is unfair to them and their families. They need to go out in to the community and do things that others get to do. They need to socialize with others in the community and get out. Please give them back their rights and freedom.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-989-1938 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Maelisa Fvangelista
P.O Box 1002
Kcaau Hi 96749

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs.***

I am a single parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my son is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. Please feel free to contact me my address is P.O. Box 6 Papaikou, Hi 96781 and my contact phone numbers are (808) 964-1057(11), (808) 937-0104 (Cell) and (808) 930-0210 9(W).

Sincerely,

Desiree M. Amaral

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).***

I am supporting SB1679, because the services I have received from Easter Seals has helped to Teach me future skills, I like going to my bowling club, being able to go out into the community. I would be very upset if they tried to cut my services, I wish I could have my week ends and evening hours back.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-989-1938 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Allen Kakazu
PO Box 582
Mt. View, HI 96771
Phone: 966-7454

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)**.

Aloha,

My name is Colleen Daly. I am a Home and Community Based Case Coordinator for Easter Seals Hawaii working in at the Hilo Support Services Program. Our program serves children and adults with development disabilities through home and community based services such as personal assistance, chore assistance, and habilitated employment through the MR/DD waiver. Recently our prt's and their families were cut by a 15% budget reduction to their services. Some of our participants and families based on the way the cut was made ended up losing much more hours than expected, and are now faced with the hardship of losing their jobs, hours, medical, and for the participants the activities and care they were previously receiving. This saddens me to see, as the people we serve deserve and have the right to be provided with the care and activities that this waiver was made to provide.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-961-3716 for any further questions.
Sincerely,

Colleen Daly
HCBS Case Coordinator
1266 Kamehameha Avenue, #12

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: 808.961.3716

Email: cdaly@eastersealshawaii.org

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).***

I am supporting SB1679, because Easter Seals helped my son in E.I to achieve success in fine motor, and gross motor helping him catch up to his appropriate age level. I work as a PA in the home and community based program at Easter Seals and fully support their mission in providing exceptional services to people with developmental disabilities. These people need to have the same access and opportunities as anyone else, it would be so sad to see anymore cuts in this area.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-989-1938 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Richard Ah-Yo III
P.O Box 1081
Keeau Hi 96749
(808)968-6255

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).***

I am the primary care giver for my granddaughter who has a disability. We have been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in which have provided the help we have needed in order to provide care. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that her needs are being met and that she is safe. I am 70 yrs old and recently (within the last two weeks) underwent eye surgery as I am partially blind and disabled my self. With the help from the DD/MR waiver my granddaughter has the opportunity to be able to participate in meaningful activities that allow him/her to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my granddaughter would have to be home alone daily, which is not possible,, disengaged from the community, and not allotted the same opportunities as every one else which to me would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-959-8099, for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Ellen Aoki
1444 Mona Loop
Hilo, Hi 96720
(808) 959-8099

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my son is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern. My son is not able to stay home alone, he needs care 24 hours every day. Due to the budget cuts my son has to stay home two days out of the week and I have to hire people to take care of him so that I can work. The thing I am most scared of his is the future for the people with disabilities.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at (808)982-8719, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Helena Truscull



April 2, 2009

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

RE: Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009
Time: 4:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. My name is Sharon Weiner and I am Vice President for DFS Group L.P.

I ask for your encouragement of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center (WCC). WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities, social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders.

Sincerely, *Sharon!*
Sharon

Sharon R. Weiner
Vice President
DFS Group L. P.
330 Royal Hawaiian Avenue
837-3460

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)*.

I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to know that his needs are being met and that he is safe. My son is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to increase his independence, maintain health and safety, continue to participate in his exercise programs, and to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 935-6046, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Marlene Miprano

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).***

Hi I am a participant at Easter Seals Hawaii. I want my services back, because I miss going out into the community in the afternoons with my PA. I thought it was my fault that my time was cut, but now I don't think that. I would like to have my hours back.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at 808-959-8099 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Denise Demotta
2469 B
Kilauea Ave
Hilo, HI 96720

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am a parent of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that her needs are being met and that she is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my daughter is able participate in meaningful activities such as Special Olympics that allow her to maintain her physical fitness and increase her social skills, and have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my daughter would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be a major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at (808)990-5751, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Carcy Uchida

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

Individuals who have not raised a child with intellectual disabilities would not be able to relate to the various experiences and challenges that affect the child and family. As a proud parent of a beautiful son who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome fifteen years ago, our family has received many blessings, yet we have faced discrimination with regards to education, after school care, and sports activities. Oftentimes we are told that our son may join a program under the condition that the family provides a personal assistant who would work with the child at all times. For a parent to hear these words is a constant reminder that your child is not normal.

As a mother who is employed on a full-time basis, the MR/DD Waiver provides excellent opportunities after school for my son to realize success, maximize his abilities, interact with peers, staff and the community in meaningful and positive ways. This program provides outstanding resources, as it instills the desire for life-long learning with the help of a Personal Assistant. In addition, the MR/DD Waiver is instrumental in developing independence and self-sufficiency by learning to be contributing members of society who find meaning and purpose in life for themselves. Thus, without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community, which would be a critical health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at ~~345-4493~~, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Joy Reyes

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my son is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**. I can be reached at (808)968-6080 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dolores Verbanic

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am the parent of an adult child who has a disability. We are currently appealing a recent cut to her services that were more than 50%. Waiver services have provided my adult child with much needed opportunities to access and be a part of her community. Her waiver services also provide her with a clean, healthy and safe home along with respite for myself.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-961-3179 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Jutta Haleamau

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am writing you as a service provider for waiver services. I have personally witnessed the need and importance services are to our disabled community and families. These services provide our families and participant opportunities to be a part of their community. Waiver services provide healthy and safe homes for needed chores services. Services provide our participants' the opportunity to apply for volunteer and employment opportunities, participate in Special Olympic functions and complete many task that we take for granted daily. I ask you to please support SB 1679.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-756-7740, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Judy Marsh

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am the sister/guardian of a disabled child that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. My sister is severely disabled and depends upon the waiver services to provide her the support to learn how to be independent as possible. Through these services my sister has learned how to complete simple task that many of us may take for granted, such as feed herself, communicate and walk. Also, my father's employment requires him to be away from home for most of the day and due to this, I am my sister's primary caretaker during the day. As the parent of two small children, I also depend upon waiver services to provide me much needed respite. Waiver services give my sister the opportunity for her to access and be a part of her community and work on becoming more independent. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my sister would have to stay home, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support** of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. I can be reached at 808-934-9587 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Ramones

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)*.

Hi, my name is Kevin and am a person with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. With the support of these services I am able to work on my goals.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 981-2242, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Foster

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am a brother/guardian of a woman with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my sister. With the support of these services I am know that her needs are being met and that she is safe. I also am ensured that my sister is able participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my sister would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at ~~959-9511~~, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ted Furuta

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)*.

I have been both a DOE educator as well as a health care provider for Hawaii's developmentally disabled population for nearly two decades. I am appalled and outraged at the recent lack of compassion shown toward those who are least capable of speaking up for themselves. In a move so swift that it allowed no time for discussion, many of our special clients suddenly found their vital services cut not merely by 15% but up to 50% and beyond.

These are good citizens and proud citizens, and many are struggling to live as independently as possible. But to do so, they need help with many of the simple daily tasks that the rest of us take for granted. By taking away even 15% of the PA services they currently receive, many could easily find independent living an impossibility, and the cost of their increased needs will surely fall back onto the taxpayers.

It has been said that societies are judged by the manner in which they care for the least of their citizens. In Hawaii, we have a long and proud history of supporting great organizations. I recognize that these are difficult times, financially. But the wide variety of services provided to our disabled population are critically important, and this is the absolute last place we should ever be looking to slash funding.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679**.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Crabtree

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am the grandmother/guardian of two disabled grandchildren that have been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. I am also a recent widow and depend upon these services greatly to assist with maintaining their healthy and safety. I do not drive, however, waiver services have assisted with getting my grandchildren to much needed medical/dental appointments. Waiver services has also been beneficial with helping my children participate in activities out in the community such as Special Olympics and even employment and volunteer opportunities. These services have helped my grandchildren to be a part of their community and have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my grandchildren would have to stay home, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-965-7766 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Barbra Rony

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am a single working parent of a young child with disabilities. Services help provide my child with opportunities to engage with other children and access his community. As a single parent my resources are very limited. Both of my parents are elderly and unable to watch my child. Having services allow me to continue to work and provide an income for my son and I. Without these services, I will not be able to work, because, I will have to stay home to take care of my child.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-895-3116/808-965-9076 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Cristina Acupan

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. With the support of these services I know that his needs are being met and that he is safe. My son is able to participate in meaningful activities that increase his independent living skills, communication skills, social skills, and that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would be disengaged from the community which would be a major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at ~~966-7579~~, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Melillo

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs.***

I am the aunt/guardian of an adult child that is severely disabled. Waiver services have provided my nephew with a safe, healthy environment. Through these services we are able to provide a loving home and opportunities for him to access and be a part of his community. My nephew many years ago was institutionalized without our knowledge. This experience was very horrible for him and not successful. We ask that you continue to support these waiver services.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at, 808-935-2604 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Angeline Moniz

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I do not want to see our clients lose the opportunity in coming to the Adult Day Health program in Kapa'a. Also our clients may not get to see the friends they have made while attending the program. The clients would lose skills they might have attained becoming more dependent rather than independent which would put a strain on their families or care providers.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Marry Sunada

Address: 1080 Meneneilea Street, Apt. 207, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: (808) 651-1455

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I have been working with the developmentally disabled community for over 7 years in several capacities, the last 5 years as a Director for the Partnership in Community Living program. The program has serviced hundreds of Individuals with developmental disabilities with a myriad of services and needs. I believe that the most telling requests were for dental work.

Medicaid did not provide for those requiring dental services except in the case of extractions. The developmentally disabled community was fast becoming edentulous. The Partnership in Community Living program serviced those dental requests. The process was slow at first, trying to convince the community that there was a better alternative than being toothless but, it grew and grew into a service that truly met the needs of those individuals with developmental disabilities.

My only regret is that the developmentally disabled community, without this program, will regress to a point where there again will be no choice but extraction. That, in and of itself, would be a crime against a population that looks to others for guidance.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Edwin F. Nilson, Jr.
Address: P.O. Box 1114, Kapa'a, HI 96746
Phone No.: (808) 652-8213

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am a program aide at an Adult Day Health program. Being with the individual clients has been a very rewarding experience seeing how happy they are coming to program and learning new things while experiencing new and exciting things. It will be a hardship on the clients and their families should they no longer be able to attend the Adult Day Health program. Where will they go and what will the future have in store for them? This Bill is needed by these individuals who, in many cases, are unable to fend for themselves or speak for themselves. The benefit from this Bill speaks for itself.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Shonnie Lemn

Address: 1181 Kealoha Road, Apt. #1, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 651-9148

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am an aide at an Adult Day Health program and work with persons with developmental disabilities. Cutting funding would have a tremendous effect on all of the individuals. Our clients worry about who will care for them if they are not able to attend the Adult Day Health program which places an extra burden on their families. Some clients still do not understand why their service needs to be cut which makes them apprehensive.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Donna Jerves

Address: P.O. Box 1241, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 651-7263

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am a person with developmental disabilities that has used the Partnership in Community fund for dental work. I still need to have more dental work done but cannot do this because I cannot afford the cost.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,
Corina Florendo

Name: Corina Florendo
Address: P.O. Box 308, Kekaha HI 96752
Phone No.: (808) 337-9636

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am an adult with developmental disabilities that attends Adult Day Health program. This is the place that I learn new things and can be with my friends.

I live with my Mother who works and my sister who goes to school and works. They help take care of me because I cannot do this myself.

I must be able to attend Adult Day Health program every day so I can still learn new things and my Mother can continue to work to support us.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely, Jason Felipe

Name: Jason Felipe

Address: 3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: (808) 821-6944

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

My Mother who took care of me passed away at Christmas and my sister was good enough to have me move into her house with her family so she can take care of me.

We are having a hard time, missing our Mom and trying to adjust to this new situation. When the Medicaid Waiver services were cut we worry about what will happen because my sister needs to work and I cannot stay alone.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name:

Stephanie Bernoy

Address:

3573 Lilikoi Place, Lawa'i, HI 96765

Phone No.:

(808) 332-7478

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee),
Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs.***

I am a participant in the Hilo Support Services program and receive services through the DD Division DD/MR Waiver. This service is important to me because I get to go to Special Olympics, I just got 2 volunteer positions, I started my own gardening business and sell lettuce, orchids and other things, and it helps me to be independent.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 961-3716 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Nolan Martin
P.O. Box 681
Kurtistown, HI 96760

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee).
Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).**

I am a Community Based Provider/Direct Service Worker for Easter Seals Hawai'i in the Hilo Support Services Program. I feel that the DD/MR Waiver Services teach participants the skills they need to be able to provide as much as they can for themselves. Services have taught the participant I work with appropriate behaviors in the community and with peers. Participants feel they have someone who cares and supports them and help with their individual needs. It definitely helps the participants be as independent as possible.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 961-3716 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Benny Velez
P. O. Box 492524
Kea'au, HI 96749

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee),
Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the **Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).**

I am a parent of a son with autism that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. My son's name is Christopher. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that his needs are being met and that he is safe. Not only am I able to go to work, but my son is able participate in meaningful activities that allow him to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my son would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be major health and safety concern.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 935-8826 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lorna Tadaki

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am the sister in law/guardian of an adult with severe disabilities. Waiver services provide my brother in law with a clean, healthy and safe home. Prior to my brother in law living with us he was institutionalized. This was not a positive experience, it required him to be hospitalized latter. Waiver services also provide my brother in law with opportunities to socialize and access and be a part of his community like everyone else.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 808-990-4286 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Devi Berinobis

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Leë, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

As a program aide at the Arc of Kaua'i Kapa'a Center I feel it is absolutely essential that this day program be fully supported. Adults with developmental disabilities who are supported with programs such as our day program are able to maintain a high level of health, wellness and functionality. It would be tragic for clients, families, staff and the community to restrict or deny any of these important services.

In my opinion to do so would create even more need in the community. I am very strongly in support of this Bill because it would impact so many in so many ways.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Carol Volker
Address: 6391 Waipouli Road, Kapa'a HI 96746
Phone No.: (808) 822-9180

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am a 58 year old with developmental disabilities who lives with my Mom who is getting old. Because of her physical health, my sisters have been helping us so I can continue to live with her, but they work and are busy with their own families too.

With the decrease in Medicaid Waiver services, it will be harder for my Mother to keep me at home if I cannot attend my Adult Day Health program daily.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Jay Padre

Name: Jay Padre

Address: 5979 Puka Street, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 822-4518

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I work with Adults with developmental disabilities for the past 10 years now and have a great satisfaction when I am able to see the smiles on the clients' faces upon achieving their individual goals. The clients are happy to know that they have the opportunity to choose and to realize their goals in where they live, how they learn, where they work and who they play with. It would be a disappointing situation if this Bill does not pass. What will these individuals have left in their lives after taking away a major daily routine they have enjoyed for years? They look forward to future opportunities, think of the hardship placed upon their families and on those individuals living on their own.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely, 

Name: Lynn Oyama

Address: 4519 Panihi Road, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 651-2726

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am an adult with developmental disabilities who lives with my parents who takes care of me because I cannot do that myself. I attend the Adult Day Health program and have some PA services so that my parents can go to work to support us. The program is helping me learn new things.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely, Randelle Lee Pearl Kaieluanani

Name: Randelle Lee

Address: P.O. Box 341, Waimea, HI 96796

Phone No.: (808) 338-1207

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I work with persons with developmental disabilities and seeing their faces every morning with their smiles, excitement and enthusiasm when they get to the Adult Day Health program is so rewarding and a blessing. They need this Bill to pass in order to keep their lives and happiness just as it is right now. It has been such a dramatic situation for them and their families cutting their hours of services because of funding.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Darrin Zablan

Address: 5338 Olopuu Street, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Phone No.: (808) 652-7207

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I have worked with people with developmental disabilities for the past 7 years. I enjoy being able to see the self pride in each individual as they achieve their goals at program. The thought of them not being able to attend this program would be a shame. They have come to love this program and have pride in what they do. I do not want funding to be decreased.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Lucille Taniguchi

Address: PO Box 1663 Kapaa, HI 96746

Phone No.: 821-6944

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I have been working with people with Developmental Disabilities for over thirty years and have seen great changes that have afforded them the basic rights that we all have. These past few months, as budget reductions were implemented, we have seen many families with members with developmental disabilities panic because they do not know how they will manage.

I have received numerous phone calls from families that have tried their best to keep their families together and are now unsure if this will be possible. One of the calls came from a sister who recently took her sister into her own home when their mother suddenly passed away. They are all having difficulty adjusting to this loss and are now faced with additional stress...budget cuts. This adult sister receives Medicaid Waiver services to attend Adult Day Health program daily and now they are being told that services must be reduced. This family wants to keep their sister with them but is having difficulty make things work. Family members must continue to work to support their own family and they don't know where to turn if their sister cannot attend a day program on a daily basis.

Another frantic call came from a single mother who is working. He son utilizes services so she can work. They have no family here on Kauai that can help them and they are frantic. She must continue to work and her son is not able to stay by himself as he is not aware of dangers around him and she worries that something will happen to him.

An elderly mother called to say that her son must have a program to go to daily. He wants to go to an Adult Day Health program to learn new things and be with his friends and this budget reduction will not allow him to do this. This mother reports that her son is angry and does not understand why he cannot do this and it is difficult for her.

I have also been involved in the Partnership in Community Living program that has assisted consumers and their families. As this contract was at first reduced then terminated, families were in a quandary. The assistance they received from this PICL program helped keep their family members healthy and safe. Some medical needs are being met on Oahu and extra assistance is needed to transport them there, a computer is needed to assist with communication, medication for someone who does not qualify for Medicaid services are needed, dental care must be up kept and families don't know how to obtain these services without funding.

Many similar calls have been received and I don't know how to assist them. Everyone has been looking for other resources to help them but on such a small island and in these economic times there are none. Their goal is to keep their families intact, healthy and safe.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name: Merle Takashima

Address: 3201 Akahi St. Lihue, HI 96766

Phone No.: 821-6944

To: **The House Committee on Finance**
The Hon. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Hon. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1679, SD 2, HD 1
Relating to The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Submitted by Tanya Aynessazian, The Arc of Hilo
April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m. agenda, Room 308

The Arc of Hilo asks for your support for this measure, which would provide appropriations for Hawaii's safety net services which are acutely needed in our community. This bill will restore funding for the Department of Health Respite Program, DD/MR Waiver Program and the Partnerships in Community Living Program (PICL).

Specific purposes for the use of these "rainy day" funds include maintaining the levels of programs determined to be essential to public health, safety, welfare and education. Safety net services are critical to public health and safety, and to public welfare and education. Safety net services for Hawaii families must be maintained—especially since the safety net is already frayed. Raiding the fund to balance the state budget would undermine Hawaii ability to help its most vulnerable residents in time of need.

Certainly budget cuts are needed, but to our most vulnerable populations? Here is one example: One of our client's support hours have been cut and now her mother must take her developmentally disabled child to work with her one day a week, and take days off from work when she can't bring her daughter to work. She is at risk of cutting her workable hours, and in this economy, losing her job. This creates additional strain and suffering on the part of the family.

At The Arc of Hilo, it is our mission to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and provide opportunities for them to learn, work, and live in our community. We urge you to support this bill and counter the budget cuts that have reduced services for so many people and their families.

During these tough economic times, the need for safety net services will undoubtedly grow, and we urge you to consider the effects budget cuts have already had on people with disabilities, their families, and our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

FINTestimony

From: Hanalei Aipoalani [haipoalani@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 2:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Rep. Marcus Oshiro; Rep. Marilyn Lee
Subject: SUPPORT - SB1679 SD2 HD1

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro
Chairman
State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Transmitted via electronic mail

RE: SUPPORT - SB1679 SD2 HD1

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Aloha no!

I write to express my support of SB1679 SD2 HD1, relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Without prejudicating the merits of other beneficiaries, I offer my support as a testament to Waikiki Community Center's ("WCC") exemplary public health, safety, welfare, and education programs; all of which are deemed appropriate for such funding in accordance to section 328L-3 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

I kindly ask that the conjoined remarks in support of this particular measure be considered and noted as the impetus of my position; and urge your support and adoption of SB1679 SD2 HD1.

Respectfully yours,

Hanalei

Hanalei Y. Aipoalani
89-308 Mokiawe Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

April 2, 2009

To: Chair of House of Finance Committee
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro

My name: Barbara Felt
Client: Megan Felt

House Finance Committee

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2009
Time of Hearing: 4:30 p.m.

Bill Number: SB 1679 SD 2 H D 1

Relating to Emergency and Budget Reserve Funds

Number of copies Committee is requesting: 2 copies including one original

To All Concerned:

In Oct. of 2007 I sold my home of twenty seven years and moved myself and Megan, my daughter with Downs Syndrome, to the Big Island. Prior to the move, Megan had been receiving services in Utah, which allowed her to have two PAs who worked with her four days and three nights per week. Together, they created a rich and happy life for Meg. Because of the move that funding is no longer available to Megan, nor will it ever be available due to fund shortages in Utah.

Long before the move and immediately after we arrived here, I started procedures to receive services for her through the medicaid waiver program. At the end of April, 2008, after endless paper work, many long trips to Hilo, and tiresome waiting, Megan was finally awarded sufficient funding. We were thrilled and relieved.

In Utah, Megan had a rich and full life and a small group of friends. She was quite happy and doing well. Her assistants were requiring more money for their services, and there was no additional funding.

Megan requires twenty four hour care due to health and safety issues. When we moved to Hawaii, because there were no services yet in place, I became her primary care giver every day and night for the seven months required to obtain funding. It was extremely stressful for both of us, and consequently, everything about her deteriorated. She became belligerent, depressed, angry, extremely obsessive compulsive, unpredictable, and at times a danger to herself. Due to the stress of caring for her, I became depressed and my mental well being was threatened.

By the time she received her funding, it was obvious that she needed serious assistance above and beyond what I or any care giver could offer. Tiffe came to the rescue with a behavioral specialist who worked with Megan for six months. After the funding was granted, it took two months of searching to find the agency that best suited Megan's needs.. During that two month period, I used CD services to

assist with some of her care. We are currently using both CD and agency service in order to provide for Megan's needs.

In May, we discovered Arc of Kona, and signed with them. One part time PA began working with Megan almost immediately. Then we began the search for another part-time PA. Six weeks later, after interviewing, and completing Arc of Kona's requirements, another PA came on board. Within two weeks of both agency and CD services combined, we were seeing slight positive changes in Megan's well-being.

I also entered a recovery period and began dealing with my own mental health issues, especially on the days that Megan was not in my care.

Gradually, Megan began to recover from the damage done due to lack of funding during our first seven months on the island. Her belligerence began softening, she showed a little less OCD, and even smiled occasionally. She was becoming less of a danger to herself.

Megan's had full services for ten months now. Because she functions on a four to five year old level, she will always need constant care. She can be demanding and difficult at times, and is not safe without supervision. It's a job that requires the help of numerous people. Her funding makes it possible for her to receive care from several PAs. We have needed to use 95% of it each month, since the PAs were hired.

If Megan's funding gets cut, her care will not be sufficient to keep her safe and healthy. She has several health problems that require constant care. One of which is a leaky mytro valve in her heart. Any kind of infection is life threatening to her. She also has reflux which requires constant monitoring of her diet; she has a mal-functioning thyroid, and is extremely OCD. Megan needs constant supervision

All of our family is on the mainland. We have no family support on the island. I am a single mom, and need to work, which I cannot do without Megan's funding for PA assistance.

Please consider the criticalness of care for our mentally challenged population. They are victims of their challenges and in most cases, not able to represent themselves. Like a victim of polio whose support braces make it possible for him to walk, taking away funding is taking away the support that the mentally challenged need to walk their path as functioning individuals in society. They deserve to be happy. With ample funding, they can lead full, rich and safe lives. Any cuts in funds would only lead to health and safety issues as well as psychological breakdowns for these people and their families. I love my daughter and want her to remain safe, healthy and happy. Your understanding and compassion for these people during the past years, has created comfortable and safe lives for them. Please continue to sustain that.

With Gratitude,



Barbara Felt

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I am a 54 year old, single mother of 4 girls; my youngest being 5. I work full time and have since I was 14 years old. I receive no outside financial help other than my salary, have no family on the island and have recently spent my retirement fund in order to keep our house for the next 5 years. Retirement is no longer an option. I take Wellbutrin for depression and hope everyday that I am able to maintain my health.

My oldest, Amara is "developmentally delayed" or "mentally retarded." Recently, the Department of Health reduced my daughter's services by 15%. This was done across the board. Amara receives minimal services, at best from the Department of Health. For Amara to continue to receive her "full services," I had to file an appeal. My hearing was on March 9, 2008. I was told that I lost my appeal on Friday, March 13th. I wrote another letter to the DOH on Monday asking for re-consideration. Their response was to schedule a hearing on Oahu - I live on Kauai.

Amara has received, on average of 174 hours a month for a Skills Trainer. The Skills Trainer services were reduced to 144 hours a month. This means that Amara services were cut by 4 hours a week or 16+ hours a month. This may not seem like much to you, but to my daughter and me it is. I receive no respite services and PICL was eliminated by the DOH. This cut essentially means I need to either take Amara to work with me or hire a babysitter (which I cannot afford) even if I am lucky enough to find one that would be willing to watch her.

I leave my house everyday Monday through Friday at 6:30am. I drop off my twins at the bus stop for school, drive Amara to her Skill Trainer's home, drop off my youngest for Kindergarten and then go to work. I am supposed to remain at my job until 4:30pm, which rarely happens, because I have no one to stay with Amara.

The DOH 15% cut means that Amara stays with her Skills Trainer from 7am to 2pm Monday through Thursdays. On Fridays, Amara can stay until 3pm. So I ask you, how am I supposed to make this work while maintaining full time employment? My hours at

work are from 8-4:30pm. If I loose my job because of this, I will end up on unemployment, which will further burden the State.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Thank you-
Patricia Coon
5806 Lokelani Road
Kapaa, HI 96746
808-635-4570

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: colleen@mfss.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colleen Welty
Organization: Individual
Address: 328 Hololani Str. Pukalani, HI
Phone: 808-572-0964
E-mail: colleen@mfss.org
Submitted on: 4/1/2009

Comments:

Dear Legislators, Please designate some of the funds in the Rainy Day Fund to adequately support Healthy Start. You probably know all about this program by now because there has been a public outcry from families who have graduated from Healthy Start, they have testified that without it, they would not have known how to keep their children safe, how to interact appropriately, how to hook-up with licensed child care, how to get prompt medical attention, etc. etc. For every \$1 spent up front, \$5-\$8 is saved in the courts, foster care, special education, prisons, etc. Mahalo for your foresight even during these cash strapped times.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 2:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tmacfarlane@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Doris MacFarlane
Organization: Individual
Address: 2575 Ala Olu Place Haiku, HI
Phone: 808-575-7478
E-mail: tmacfarlane@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2009

Comments:
April 1, 2009

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, FIN Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, FIN Members of the FIN Committee Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308 Honolulu, HI 96813

Measure Title: SB1679 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.
Hearing: 4/3/09 at 4:30 p.m.

Dear Representatives Oshiro, Lee, and members of the committee:

PLEASE pass SB 1679 SD2 HD1 and PLEASE approve using 9 million of this Rainy Day Fund for the State of Hawaii's Healthy Start Program. This program identifies high risk families with very young children between the ages of zero and three years old and provides home visiting services to them. The Healthy Start Program helps break the chain of child abuse. The Healthy Start Program teaches parenting skills, ensures the babies are receiving regular medical care including immunizations, identifies areas where a family may need more help and collaborates with other community resources to make sure the needed help is received.

The Healthy Start Program is funded through the State Department of Health and has already received deep funding cuts this year. Providers are struggling to continue to serve as many families as they can while being told they must cut the number served drastically to stay within the new budget. Please, I respectfully ask you to approve this bill so that the Healthy Start Program may continue providing services to Hawaii's at-risk families and children.

Thank you!

Doris MacFarlane
2575 Ala Olu Place
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708
(808) 575-7478

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 10:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hljfalicki@pacthawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julie Falicki
Organization: Parents And Children Together
Address: 1485 Linapuni St. #105 Honolulu HI 96819
Phone: 841-2245
E-mail: hljfalicki@pacthawaii.org
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

()

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 10:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ave@mfss.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ave Diaz
Organization: Maui Family Support Services
Address: 1844 Wili Pa Loop Wailuku, HI
Phone: 242-0900
E-mail: ave@mfss.org
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 10:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Antoinette Rodrigues
Organization: Individual
Address: 35 Holomakani Drive Kula, Hawaii
Phone: 808.878.1651
E-mail: rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing this letter in favor of SB 1679 SD2 HD1, specifically, to appropriate money from emergency and budget reserves to maintain levels of funding for the Healthy Start Program at Maui Family Support Services. In anticipation of decreased funding, MFSS has already laid off or reduced hours for the majority of employees in Healthy Start. The agency has also discharged approximately one half of families who no longer meet the new requirements for service (low income with high risk factors for child abuse and neglect) now recommended by the Department of Health. The agency is also examining more cost effective ways that services can be delivered in group settings. Appropriating this money will allow MFSS to maintain the integrity of the Healthy Start Program by offering services to families who will most benefit.

Studies show that Healthy Start 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.

Family Support Workers visit families with keiki ages 0-3 years, providing child development information, with an evidence-based curriculum (Nurturing Parenting) used nationally in family strengthening programs. They 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 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 consult with a Clinical Specialist to resolve these issues.

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 lot of needless suffering. Please continue to fund Healthy Start!

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

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 9:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lindacoble@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM.SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: linda Coble
Organization: Individual
Address: 3279 Beaumont Woods Pl
Phone: 284-2000
E-mail: lindacoble@mac.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2009

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 9:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mgleason@hiloarc.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Gleason
Organization: The Arc of Hilo
Address: 1099 Waianuenu Ave. Hilo, HI
Phone: 808-935-8534
E-mail: mgleason@hiloarc.org
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

Aloha Representative Oshiro, Representative Lee and committee members, Please pass Senate Bill 1679 so that funding can be restored to "safety net" services that have been cut and are causing hardship for our most vulnerable populations.

Mahalo

Mike

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 1:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: PABEA Legislative Committee
Address: 222 Kuukama St. Kailua, HI
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a Professor Emeritus of Public Health and former Director of the Center on Aging, University of Hawaii. I Am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the executive office on aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

Our organization strongly supports the purpose of SB 1/679, which is to appropriate monies from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain programs essential to education, public health, and public welfare. The bill clearly states the reason why it is necessary to use this fund for these purposes.

We recognize the extremely difficult financial situation in which this State finds itself. However, we urge the Legislature to give priority to maintaining safety net services for Hawaii's oldest and most vulnerable populations. While all fund requests are important, in particular, we support funding for the following sections of Senate Bill 1679:

Section 5 -- Ke Ola Pono
Section 6 -- respite programs
Section 8 -- senior centers
Section 9 -- Kupuna Ccare
Section 10 -- ADRC

Also, we call your attention to Section 16, healthy aging partnerships. This section appears to duplicate Section 5, which is the same program under a different name.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 10:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: financedir@fulllifehawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2009 4:30:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judi Wohlman
Organization: Full Life
Address: 79-7460 Mamalahoa Hwy #212 Kealahou
Phone: 808-322-9333
E-mail: financedir@fulllifehawaii.org
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

As the Finance Director for a DD Division Medicaid Waiver provider, I see first hand what the recent budget cuts have done to our participants with disabilities - to their families, to our employees, and to our nonprofit corporation. We are struggling to maintain the administration staff necessary to process all the state required paperwork and uphold all the state's regulatory requirements. Our participants with disabilities's services have been cut by 25 to 50%, which places a hardship on their families who may lose their own jobs because they have to stay home to take care of their dependent. This "trickle down" is putting many folks out of work and putting participants with disabilities in greater risk of neglect for their safety and well being. We don't want these vulnerable people being "closeted" and "maintained" with unaccountable sub-standard care. Please support this "safety net" Senate Bill 1679 SD2 HD1 so we can continue to take care of our Ohana properly.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1679 SD2 HD!

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Committee: HLT/HUS Room: 308 Hearing Date: 4/03/2009 4:30 pm

SUPPORT

I am Laura Manis and strongly support this bill, which is to appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain programs essential to education, public health, and public welfare. The bill clearly states the reasons why it is necessary to use this fund for these purposes.

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the legislative committee of PABEA and also for Kokua Council, HARA, AARP all of whom support this bill. My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the PABEA Board.

All the services provided for in the bill are ongoing, successful and needed. Our organizations are, of course, especially interested in programs funding those that are critical to meet the needs of vulnerable elders in our state. At present, there are of very substantial unmet health and human services needs in this population. These are services funded through the Kupuna Care program, Catholic charities and the various Senior Centers. The ADRC is also a critical service, because it provides a way for seniors to identify available services without having to go through the difficult and confusing task of trying to contact many individual agencies for assistance, which may or may not be available to them.

We wish to commend the Legislature for utilizing the rainy day fund at this time which is appropriate to the fiscal crisis now facing Hawaii. We are especially concerned because the Federal stimulus funds, which may be coming to Hawaii, do not seem targeted to meet these types of needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura G. Manis

Tel. 597-8838

SB1679 RELATING TO EMERGENCY BUDGET AND RESERVE FUND
Appropriates moneys from the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain
levels of programs for education, human services, and health

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, April 03, 2009
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC)

Aloha, Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and distinguished members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chairperson of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, which is a hui of 22 treatment agencies throughout the state.

HSAC supports SB1679

The recent reductions in Substance Abuse Treatment place the Federal match at risk. A 10% or more reduction quickly turns into over 18% reduction in services to the community due to the Maintenance of Effort calculation imposed by the Federal government. SAMHSA, the Federal agency strongly, encourages States, such as Hawaii, to follow President Obama's lead to not reduce treatment at this time of most need by so many.

Treatment Works, Saves Money, Reduces Crime and Addresses Health Care Related Issues.

1. Treatment is effective for both adolescents and adults. The outcome data is available at <http://hawaii.gov/health/substance-abuse/prevention-treatment/treatment/adtrtwo.htm>
2. Almost 10% of the adult population and 6% of adolescents need treatment in Hawaii.
3. Treatment is 7 times more cost effective than the best supply control program.
4. Treatment is far less expensive than One year of treatment costs \$11,500. One year of incarceration costs \$39,600. One year of untreated addiction costs society an estimated \$43,200.

**Reductions in Treatment are twofold
considering that the State loses the
Federal Match**

5. \$1 invested in substance abuse treatment saves taxpayers \$7 in future costs; that \$1 invested in treatment could save \$11.54 in combined medical and social costs; for every \$1 spent on substance abuse treatment \$5.60 was returned in reduced welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, crime courts, and imprisonment.
6. 33% of all Justice costs relate to substance abuse.
7. 55% in probation and parole programs need alcohol or drug treatment.
8. Treatment works: Results of a treatment study report significant declines in criminal activity.
 - Reports of arrests of selling drugs decreased by 78.2%, from 64% to 13.9%.
 - Reports of arrests of shoplifting decreased by 81.6%, from 63.7% to 11.7%.
 - Reports of "beating someone up" decreased by 77.6%, from 49.3% to 11%.
 - Reports of arrests for any crimes decreased by 64.2%, from 48.2% to 17.2% in the comparison years.
 - Drug sales dropped by 68%;
 - Breaking and entering dropped by 61%;
 - Selling sex dropped by 54%;
 - Use of weapons or physical force dropped by 75%.

Treatment works: *Alcohol Health & Research World* reported findings that 50% of the costs of alcohol and drug abuse treatment are offset within one year by subsequent reductions in medical costs by the affected family, and not just the primary patient.

References: Please refer to <http://hawaii.gov/health/substance-abuse/prevention-treatment/treatment/adtrtwo.htm>

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information and are available for questions, if needed.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs.***

The Personal Assistance / Habilitation (PAB) services from the DD/MR Waiver program that my daughter receives is a necessary service that has proven to be beneficial to her health and over all well-being. Without these services, my daughter would be at home since there are no other programs suitable to meet my daughter's needs. No other program is skilled and trained to curtail the kinds of behaviors my daughter displays in situations that only she encounters where coping can be difficult. Through the years of receiving PAB services, my daughter has matured, her character molded to where she's able to handle situations in a more manageable way. She has made good progress and continues to improve in every aspect of her life. Currently she's researching job opportunities, and volunteers at a pre-school, becoming a contributing member of her community. If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 1**. I can be reached at (808) 959-1198, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Benevides

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

My daughter's services through the DD/MR Waiver program have been the difference maker in my daughter's life. She has developed life and safety skills she wouldn't have gotten if the services weren't in existence. She is now able to cook and bake with assistance, she is able to cross the street safely, and able to make her own purchases at the stores in the community. If the services were cut any further, or be cancelled altogether, my daughter's health and safety would be at risk. If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 1. I can be reached at (808) 896-5477, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Viera

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings -- The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am a single parent who has had the privilege to see my special needs daughter in the DD/MR Waiver services grow towards independence in the home as well as out in the community. The DD/MR Waiver services also allowed her to grow in her behavior and character. The skilled, trained staff my daughter has working with her has been the difference in support towards getting her more independent. Without these services, my daughter would spend her time at home, not getting the kind of support and training she so desperately need. If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2. I can be reached at 990-4671, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Laverne Sanchez

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) Programs.***

I am a provider for a young girl with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to receive care. With the support of these services the parents of the child I work with are able to go to work knowing that their child is safe and her needs are being met. Not only is the parent able to go to work but her daughter is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, this young lady would have to be home alone, disengaged from the community which would be a major health and safety concern. If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 1. I can be reached at (808) 990-2701, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nalani Aiwohi

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

The services my daughter receives has changed her life and made my life a lot more manageable. My daughter has Downs Syndrome and was very difficult to teach her appropriate things to do. With the attention I need to give to my ailing husband, who has prostate cancer, and is on dialysis, having no use of his hands or feet due to a stroke he suffered some years ago, it was very difficult to manage the needs of my daughter. The Personal Assistant services she receives from the Medicaid Waiver program has allowed my daughter to grow towards independence. She is able to do things for herself like brush her own teeth, know that she can leave the store after getting a treat, and following a visual schedule to be more independent with her responsibilities after school. The services she receives are definitely invaluable services that have changed her and her whole family's well-being.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in ***Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. I can be reached at (808) 956-7294 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Thompson

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).*

I truly believe that the services my son receives through the DD/MR Waiver services are needed for his support, health and well-being. I am a single mom who cannot leave my son under the care of unskilled workers who respectfully work in other after school programs. Having support under the DD/MR Waiver services, I know my son is under the care of trained, skilled staff that is able understand him, redirect his behaviors, and take him into the community to learn life skills.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1.** I can be reached at (808) 936-6222 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Angela Evans

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare.

Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the *Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)*.

I am thankful for the services my daughter has received via the DD/MR Waiver Services Program. Over the last couple of years, my daughter has increased her independence to where I never thought was possible for her. With supports, she is now able to do her own laundry, do her own chores, grocery shop at specific stores, and live on her own at her own place. She is also volunteering at a hotel and at the food bank, distributing food for the ones who are in need. Without these services, my daughter would be home bound and lose her independence, increase in negative behavior, and not be a contributing member of her community.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at (808) 896-3122 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Doris Iwaoka



**House Finance Committee
SB 1679 SD2 HB1
Friday, April 3, 2009
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
which includes Healthy Aging
Testimony from: Terri Halliday
Kauai EnhanceFitness Program Master Trainer
and Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness Ambassador
Kaua'i Healthy Aging Project Partner**

Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness is in full support of the County of Kaua'i Agency of Elderly Affairs' (AEA) intent to be favorably considered when the Rainy Day Fund Bill is being discussed. Sustaining both the EnhanceFitness (EF) and the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) is of the utmost importance. Both programs are evidence-based, having been tested and researched over the years, with a proven track record of effectiveness. The response to these programs on Kauai has been very positive and extremely beneficial for our senior community.

Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness has been an active partner over the last four years with Kauai's Healthy Aging Project. As a volunteer ambassador for Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness, I am an advocate for programs that address the health and well-being of older adults. My mission is to work with organizations and individuals to enhance the health and quality of life of people over fifty through regular physical activity and health/nutrition education. Being involved with the Healthy Aging Project as a partner and the Master Trainer for EnhanceFitness has allowed me to share my 30+ years of expertise in the health and fitness field. Our goal is to improve the health status of our senior population. We have successfully implemented programs that provide appropriate and safe healthy aging practices, as well as offering an evidence-based component.

We support the AEA's effort in its request to be considered for funding to continue the Healthy Aging Project on Kaua'i through the EnhanceFitness and CDSMP programs. Our goal is to help our seniors enjoy active and healthy lifestyles and keep health care cost to a minimum. Thank you for your consideration.

(Mrs.) Terri Halliday,
B.S., Certified Fitness Instructor and Personal Fitness Trainer
EF Master Trainer/Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness Ambassador

**Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance**

Friday, April 3, 2009

**Testimony of Kaua'i's EnhanceFitness participants
Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1175) Relating to the Emergency and Budget
Reserve Fund**

As participants of the EnhanceFitness program, we support SB 1679, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1175) which would provide funds to continue the work that was started in the state and here on Kaua'i to keep seniors healthy and strong through the Healthy Aging Partnership.

The County of Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs has been working on the Healthy Aging Project for over five years, and since 2007, the KAEA and partners have been working together to provide the EnhanceFitness program, which is offered at six sites here on Kaua'i. We participate at these one hour classes 3 times a week and have experienced for ourselves the benefits of having more energy, strength and endurance, and better posture. The exercises also help with our balance, which is very important as we get older to prevent falls. We also enjoy the opportunity to socialize and have made new friendships from our participation in the program.

We ask for your consideration and support of this bill. As older adults, we need to keep our mind, body, and spirit healthy for as long as possible. The EnhanceFitness program helps us to enjoy a better quality of life as we get older. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in favor of this bill.

Tomiko Almeida
 Margaret Arnoldo
 Lynn B. Kuan
 Daniel Tunney
 Betty Kamman
 Hannah Kawamata
 Susuko Murabayashi
 Setsuko Fujimoto
 Chujō Kunita
 Julie Matunaga
 Yoshie Yamamoto
 Anah Reyes
 Pat Morrison
 Ann M. Fontes

Saly Gray
 Laurie Schwayz
 YOSHIKO YAMASAKI

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings -- The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference
Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs).***

I am a Community Based Provider/Direct Service Worker for Easter Seals Hawai'i in the Hilo Support Services program. Throughout the years employed here, I have worked with several participants with Developmental Disabilities. I feel that when working professionals work with these participants, we are more successful at developing independence and individual skills. It is common that the participant I am working with will not display the same abilities with their own family member. Because services are one-on-one, I am able to give my 100% focus to the participant I am working with and this is a huge factor in the success of these services. I feel that it is my calling to facilitate life and growth skills and it makes me feel complete.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached at 990-2701 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nalani Aiwohi
P.O. Box 492763
Kea'au, HI 96749

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - The House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (The House Finance Committee), Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1***. This bill makes an emergency appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically I am supporting appropriations to restore lost funding for the ***Department of Health Respite, DD Division DD/MR Waiver, and the DD Division Partnerships in Community Living (PICL Programs)***.

I am a 14-year old female participant of Easter Seals Hawai'i (ESH) in the Hilo Support Services program. I get to participate in bowling, arts and crafts projects, an Easter Egg Hunt, etc which I wouldn't get to do if I wasn't in this program. I also work on learning skills such as budgeting and cooking. The other day, I cooked pancakes all by myself. These services help me to be more independent and I like being independent. I also learned to download pictures for the scrapbook I am working on. Services are very important to me.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD 2 HD 1**. I can be reached by calling Tisha Takazawa at 961-3716 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

ESII Participant A. V. (14 years old)

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Betty Peppell**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Betty Peppell and I am a Waikiki resident, Waikiki Community Center member and participant.

I have been a member of the Waikiki Community Center since 2000 and participate in the Tap Dancing classes. I am a member of the volunteer dance group, Steptaculars, and we have our practices at the center. The classes have helped me immensely with physical exercise and mental acuity. I have wanted to be a tap dancer since I was a little girl and finally at age 60 I became a tap dancer! I've met so many new friends and my husband has also taken part in community meetings at the Center. Our condo building also utilized the Waikiki Community Center for our quarterly meetings and since I am a board member, this is very convenient.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Louise Guerrero**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Louise Guerrero and I am a member and participant of Waikiki Community Center.

Since 1997, I have been an outstanding member of Waikiki Community Center (WCC). I live in Pearl City and I commute once a week to WCC and have the last thirteen years. I have bypassed in joining other community centers closer to my home and prefer WCC because of the camaraderie and the support that they give to their members. I like WCC because I feel as if I'm a member of an extended family. I became interested in singing and was a member of WCC's Singers. I later joined the volunteer tap dancing group called Step-taculars and enjoy performing with them at WCC, hospitals, care homes, and at senior health & wellness fairs. As an active volunteer and participant, I believe that WCC truly makes a difference in the lives of seniors through their activities and services.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Dale and Shirley King, Waikiki Resident and Waikiki Community Center Members
ds2king@hawaii.rr.com

RE: **Support of SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

We've seen firsthand the opportunity for seniors to get out and interact with others rather than be at home alone. The activities are well-chosen and timely for the seniors, as well as being interesting.

It seems that in the middle of the city and this neighborhood, which is very urban—it gives many seniors a purpose and organized activities to attend; and at a cost (little or nothing) that even low-income seniors can afford. If you are a widow/widower and are not located near family or have busy families, it is truly a lifesaver.

We have also observed many members of the community who benefit from the food bank operation at WCC.

Please consider helping the Waikiki Community Center maintain the current level of activities and services for their seniors by supporting SB1679,SD2,HD1.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro
Chairman
State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Transmitted via electronic mail

RE: SUPPORT - SB1679 SD2 HD1

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Aloha no!

I write to express my support of SB1679 SD2 HD1, relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Without prejudicating the merits of other beneficiaries, I offer my support as a testament to Waikiki Community Center's ("WCC") exemplary public health, safety, welfare, and education programs; all of which are deemed appropriate for such funding in accordance to section 328L-3 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

I kindly ask that the conjoined remarks in support of this particular measure be considered and noted as the impetus of my position; and urge your support and adoption of SB1679 SD2 HD1.

Respectfully yours,

Hanalei

Hanalei Y. Aipoalani
89-308 Mokiawe Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Barbie Paris**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Barbie Paris and I am member at Waikiki Community Center (WCC).

I came to WCC in 1990 after I retired from Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard as a division head in the security department. I joined a dance group called the Step-tacular back then. The dance group started as beginners tap class offered at WCC and has since then grown into a show that performs only as an outreach group that promotes senior citizen exercise and health at many senior facilities as well as Ala Moana Center. Our mission is to provide music, color and movement to enrich the lives of others. The ages of the WCC senior dancers are between 64 and 81. I will always be grateful to the Waikiki Community Center for their ongoing support.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Carolyn Daws**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Carolyn Daws and I am a Waikiki Community Center member and participant.

Waikiki Community Center is an important part of my daily living. The Intermediate Tap classes are something I look forward to even with its challenges of learning new dance sequences, remembering them, and actually doing them; brain, legs, feet and arms need to be in synch – all this while having fun, building bone mass, and getting a good workout.

While I'm at the Waikiki Community Center, making new friends is a bonus and contributes to emotional well-being. Their Thrift Shop is an interesting place to poke around in and find bargains. Their unique excursions take us out of our everyday routes. I am a Manoa resident who finds the Waikiki Community Center to be very congenial and well worth the drive over.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Sybil Tsukamoto**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Sybil Tsukamoto and I am Waikiki Community Center member and participant.

I take three tap dance classes a week at the Waikiki Community Center. I have also taken the origami class and have been on different outings throughout the island. Participating in tap dance class has been physical therapy for me because I had a weak right knee and climbing stairs was a major problem. I no longer have to cling to the railing as a result of the dance classes. It has built the muscles around my knee so that I have better stability. I like learning new skills and I have made great friendships – thanks to what the Waikiki Community Center offers to seniors like me.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Ronald A. Reddick**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is **Ronald Reddick** and I am a **member of WCC**.

In my opinion Waikiki Community Center, through its varied outreach programs, plays a significant role in health prevention and maintenance for senior citizens through activities involving their mind and body: Tai Chi, Mah Jong, Low Impact Aerobics, Kundalini Yoga, Piano instruction, Foreign Language skills, Dancing (line, tap & hula) and many other programs. These programs respond to The National Health Institute's guidelines which recommend exercise to ward off a number of maladies affecting seniors. Additional national research conducted by such notable institutes as the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center and the Center for Disease Control, all provide verifiable evidence of the benefits of physical exercise, social connection and cognitive stimulation for older adults.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Joyce M. Fukata

RE: Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. My name is Joyce Fukata and I am an employee of the Waikiki Community Center in the capacity of Office Manager.

Every day that I go to the office is a day that I see firsthand how the Waikiki Community Center impacts the lives of seniors, not only those who live in Waikiki but also seniors who make the time and effort to be here from areas all over Oahu. Our programs include activities and classes that promote physical fitness as well as cognitive stimulation and becomes the venue to make social connections and establish friendships.

When the needs of the seniors change, we also offer case management and counseling so that they can continue their independent living lifestyles in a meaningful and vibrant fashion. Waikiki Community Center is an oasis in Waikiki, where older residents rely on our services and programs to stay fit not only physically but mentally and emotionally.

I am asking for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you provide the funding that will allow the Waikiki Community Center to continue to support seniors and deliver to them, the necessary services and programs that are vital to sustaining an independent and healthy lifestyle. As the only community center in the Waikiki area, the importance of our center and the role we play in this community cannot be overstated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joyce M. Fukata

Joyce M. Fukata
Office Manager
Waikiki Community Center
310 Paoakalani Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Sue Miyahara**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Sue Miyahara and I am Waikiki Community Center member and participant.

I have been a member for 2 years and I participate in the Tap dance class. I attend Waikiki Community Center activities for exercise and to keep my mind going physically and mentally. This has helped a lot with my balance and in my ability to remember patterns so that keeps me thinking. I like the social contact and it gets us out in the community.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Sandra Kam**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Sandra Kam and I am a Hawaii Resident and Waikiki Community Center member and instructor.

I am part of the Steptaculars, a group of volunteer tap dance performers who are over the age of 65, under the auspices of Waikiki Community Center. We perform all over the state at care homes and retirement homes every week and represent the Waikiki community. I volunteer to teach a tap class and take two tap classes. I have been a member of the Waikiki Community Center for about 3 years. Being a member here has improved my health, changed my posture and I've lost 10 pounds since participating in these activities. I think it helps improve my memory because I have to learn all these routines. I've made a lot of great friends.

The Waikiki Community Center is an important part of my life and my ability to keep active and healthy. Its Senior Program is an important focal point for the people who live in the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance

Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Philip E Thomas, Jr, PhD**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Philip E Thomas, Jr, PhD and I am a **Waikiki resident and Waikiki Community Center member**.

I strongly believe that it is important for WCC and its senior program to receive funding through this bill in order to support the much needed services and activities that WCC provides to our community. The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

Philip E Thomas, Jr, PhD

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Patricia Peters**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Patricia Peters and I am member of the Waikiki Community Center and a Hawaii Resident.

I go to the Waikiki Community Center daily and participate in a variety of activities. I volunteer to help them with what they need and enjoy meeting my friends each day. I look forward to coming to the center every day. I am not able to afford very much since I only receive social security income, but the Waikiki Community Center provides a place for me to be active and meet other people.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Kathryn Heller**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Kathryn Heller and I am Hawaii Resident and Waikiki Community Center member.

I have been a member for about 3 years. I take Tap Dancing and sometimes perform with the Steptaculars. This has allowed me to rekindle my love for Tap. The exercise is beneficial, the new friendships are very valuable and it keeps my mind and body active. It gives me a much needed break from my caregiving responsibilities for my husband. This helps me take care of myself so I can continue to take care of him. I do go to the Farmers Market and benefit from shopping there. I also took advantage of having a massage at the Center and I appreciate the affordable rate which enables me to have a much needed massage that helps me to relax.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Jeffrey Apaka**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Jeff Apaka and I am a resident of Waikiki. I also am a member of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. It is important to for the quality of life for Waikiki's older residents Waikiki Community Center to continue to provide services for older adults.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Jackie Therriault**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Jackie Therriault and I am Waikiki Community Center participant.

I have been coming to the Waikiki Community Center for 20 years. Over the years I have taken the Hawaiian Culture and Language classes, Tap, Ballroom Dancing, Origami, various field trips and programs and utilize the Farmer's Market and Thrift Shop. When I first came here I knew nobody and was told about WCC. I've made many lasting friendships with those who have similar interests. It serves a lot of seniors right here in Waikiki and other parts of Oahu. We need to have a voice and an outlet for our energies and Waikiki Community Center provides that for us seniors.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Harry Chun**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Harry Chun and I am a Hawaii resident and member of Waikiki Community Center.

I have attended activities at the Waikiki Community Center for nearly 10 years. I currently participate in Ballroom Dancing and occasionally go to the Farmer's Market. I feel that the Waikiki Community Center helps to keep me healthy by keeping physically and mentally sharp. I enjoy the social interaction with others that I get while being at WCC. It is an important part of my life.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Dianne Ako**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Dianne Ako and I am a Waikiki resident and long time member of Waikiki Community Center.

I currently participate in Ballroom Dancing and Hula and also volunteer to assist in the lei making each year. Sometimes I come to the Farmer's Market and I donate to the Thrift Shop occasionally. I feel that Waikiki Community Center helps to keep us physically and mentally sharp and we enjoy the social interaction.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Diana Wong**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Diana Wong and I am member of the Waikiki Community Center and a Hawaii Resident.

I go to the Waikiki Community Center and participate in Line Dancing, Hula Dancing and Lei Making, go to the Farmer's Market. They also helped me to find out the latest news in senior housing. I found out that I qualified for senior housing and wanted to do this so I could avoid big rent increases on my limited budget. The Senior Program Coordinator assisted me in finding an affordable senior housing building in the Waikiki area. I am able to get resources and information at the Waikiki Community Center that I haven't been able to get anywhere else, and in my own neighborhood. They help me stay active in the community and are easily available whenever I need help.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a community hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Alice Suyeoka**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Alice Suyeoka and I am Waikiki Community Center member and participant.

I have been a member for 2 years and I participate in the Tap dance class. I am coming for exercise and to keep my mind going physically and mentally. This has helped a lot with my balance and in my ability to remember dance steps and patterns. I like the social contact and it gets me and other fellow seniors out in the community. We have patient and great instructors. It's important to keep the senior program at the Waikiki Community Center operating. We do pay nominal fees for classes and activities, but we know it's not enough to run the entire program. Your support of funding for this program will keep it available for me and other seniors who benefit from the Waikiki Community Center's services.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Richard Matta

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Richard Matta and I am a member of the Waikiki Community Center.

I participate in the bridge, ping pong and ballroom dancing activities at the Waikiki Community Center. I am able to stay mentally sharp and physically active because of the activities that are available for seniors like me.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents, like me, are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Carolyn K. Gugelyk

RE: Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009
Time: 4:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. My name is Carolyn Gugelyk and I am Chair, Board of Directors, Waikiki Community Center.

You can visit Waikiki Community Center, and see the many Hawaii citizens and children there receiving valuable services, including an affordable Early Education Center that benefits hard-working hotel workers, a place for seniors to spend their day and receive services, a food bank, and a meeting place for other non-profit and social service groups. The services that WCC provides are essential, and especially needed in economic times like the present.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Carolyn K. Gugelyk

111 Hekili Street #A PMB 439
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808)265-0055

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Denice Keliikoa**

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Honorable Representative Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is **Denice Keliikoa** and I have been a member of Waikiki Community Center for the past five years.

I am asking your support for this bill to assist the on-going efforts of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC and its senior programs are instrumental to the thousands of kupuna, families and residents who utilize their services, a place where many senior adults call home.

The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

Mahalo nui loa,

Denice Keliikoa

Denice Keliikoa

WCC member

Phone: (808) 286 7869

Email: denicek@hawaii.rr.com

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Finance

From: **Jacqueline Sanchez**

RE: Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. My name is Jacqueline Sanchez and I am a WCC member and participant

As a regular participant I can see with my own eyes how the service and programs help to improve the life of so many citizens. The Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program is an important focal point for the Waikiki community. Through this program, Waikiki's many older residents are able to receive a variety of services, including activities and classes that promote physical fitness, cognitive stimulation, and social connections as well as case management and counseling when their needs change. Many older residents in Waikiki rely upon the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community. Their range of services enable Waikiki's older residents to stay fit, connected with their community and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for Waikiki's elders. Thank you.

Sincerely

Jacqueline Sanchez

419 Atkinson Dr. # 1403, Honolulu HI 96814

(808) 941-4676

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Mary Guidroz

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. My name is Mary Guidroz and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center. I am 86, nearly 87 years old, live by myself, and I have been a member for 12 years.

In the past I have participated in many classes including Line Dancing, taken various excursions around the island led by WCC staff and really been kept healthy by joining in the many educational and healthy activities at WCC. I am a diabetic and they bring in speakers to help me keep up with my diabetes. In addition, I really look forward to being with the many friends I have made and meeting new people. This has been a great part of my benefit from the Waikiki Community Center because I know people look for me to be there and look out for me if I don't show up.

The Social Worker helped me last year when I forgot to fill out my Medicaid forms on time and my benefits had lapsed. She helped me get those back right away and she helps me keep my other records current such as Medicare, and Food Stamps. The Waikiki Community Center is so important to me because I count on those services so I can stay living independently.

I support the Waikiki Community Center and I hope you will too by approving SB1679, SD2, HD1.

Thank you.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jane Murray

RE: Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing Date: Friday, April 2, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Jane Murray and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center (WCC). When I first came to the Center about 6 years ago, I knew few people but it was a great way for me to meet people and become involved in the WCC community and the larger community as well.

At the WCC, I have participated in helping disabled children and made quilts for care homes and other needy individuals. I've volunteered to work on the newsletter and other special mailings and fundraisers. I'm a member of WCC's Telephone Tree to ensure that other older people like me are safe in their homes.

I've participated in numerous trips and excursions to Maui, Hawaii and Lanai as well as taken excursions to all the Military Bases, the UH Medical School and many others. I currently volunteer at the Army Museum at the end of Waikiki. I've enjoyed in particular the Hawaiian Language classes. For me, the friendships have been especially important as I live alone and my family is on the mainland. I know that the friends I've made at WCC will help me if I need help. They keep me active and engaged in the community.

In tough economic times, even more people need the services provided by the Waikiki Community Center because of their accessibility, social connections, health and wellness emphasis and inviting neighborhood settings.

I support the Waikiki Community Center and hope you will too. Thank you.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Dawn Ward

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1679, SD 2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Dawn Ward and I have been a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center since 2001. I am a retired schoolteacher.

I have been involved in many aspects of the Waikiki Community Center and the impact WCC has had on my life is significant. I feel that it has been my vehicle to introduce me to people and experiences in the community as well as a catalyst for me to volunteer and share my life in a way that benefits others.

I enjoy participating in WCC's many activities and classes. I am an active volunteer with WCC and in the community. I have assisted with their New Member Orientation and am a member of the Senior Advisory Council that provides ideas and feedback to WCC staff and works to create meaningful programs for our participants.

The Waikiki Community Center senior program continues to be a vital part of my life and provides me numerous opportunities to keep mentally sharp, socialize, stay physically fit and contribute to the community in which I live.

Please support WCC and the other Senior Centers by approving SB 1679, SD2, HD1. I invite you to visit and talk with the participants and see for yourselves the many healthy, independent individuals who value the services and volunteer opportunities provided by Senior Centers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1.

April 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Karen Van Tine

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Karen Van Tine and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center. My husband and I are residents of Waikiki and have been going to the Waikiki Community Center for about 7 years.

For me, the Waikiki Community Center has provided opportunities for social connections, an emphasis on healthy lifestyle activities, a variety of education opportunities and most importantly an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture. We keep active and healthy by participating in WCC.

Friends I have met at the center have become good friends with whom I share other activities outside of the center. Preventative screenings such as glaucoma, hearing and blood pressure have kept us abreast of subtle changes in our health and given us a way to monitor it.

Many of our friends at Waikiki Community Center are not as fortunate in their aging as we are, facing ill health, emergencies and other challenges which they find confusing, daunting and discouraging. In these and other situations, Waikiki Community Center has offered aid and assistance, providing information, counseling and needed support to elders in distress.

I urge you to support SB1679, SD2, HD1 and do all you can to help maintain the current services of Waikiki Community Center's necessary program so that Waikiki seniors can continue to have a place to turn to help with their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

April 3, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marilyn Lee, House Committee on Finance Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Lillian Chace

RE: **Support for SB1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**

Hearing Date: Friday, April 3, 2009

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1679, SD2, HD1 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund**. My name is Lillian Chace and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center (WCC).

I first came to the WCC about two years ago. I was new in Hawaii and someone told me about the Center. For me, the Waikiki Community Center proved to be an important lifeline as I had just arrived and had no family or friends in Hawaii. At this place, I was able to make good friends and get established in my new community. Many residents in Waikiki are like me and have come to rely and depend on the Waikiki Community Center as a place to come to for assistance and being a part of the community.

At the WCC, I have participated in classes as well as taken advantage of the group excursions that are offered. As a single person without personal transportation, these group excursions have been a way for me to participate in educational activities and become more appreciative of the beauty and culture that is unique to Hawaii.

I am active on the Senior Advisory Council, provide orientation for new members, assist with the newsletter and assist with other tasks when asked. The personal connections I have made there have been valuable and the friendships are something special.

The services and activities at WCC help me stay fit and alert and have enabled me to continue to live independently in my community.

I ask for your support of SB1679, SD2, HD1 and that you please provide the funding that will support Senior Centers and the programs of the Waikiki Community Center. WCC serves as a hub for wellness activities and social connectivity and meaningful participation in our community. It is important to keep its doors open for elders like me. Thank you.

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April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

2009 APR -2 P 2:15

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

It is imperative that funds be reinstated for these programs. It provides services and takes care of the needs of these individuals who are severely affected by the loss of funding. Without this funding, these individuals and their families have had to face reduced services which presents a great hardship. Our individuals have limited financial resources and this funding is essential for their well being and safety.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name:

Lizano Kudina

Address:

5867 Anaka St Kapaa

Phone No.:

245 4132

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair,
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1879, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medical Waiver, and the Partnerships In Community Living Programs.

In my capacity as a Personal Assistance Habilitation Program Supervisor, I know of several families who would be greatly affected without restoration of lost funding. These are the families who maintain their adult sons or daughters in their homes with the smallest amount of support from the "system". They are, for the most part, elderly individuals who must bathe, diaper, feed, lift and transfer their son or daughter on a daily basis. Many have medical or physical limitations of their own, but they persevere without complaining. While I am saddened by the fact that to remove or reduce their supports may eventually force them to look at placement for their son or daughter outside their home, I am more saddened that this undermines decades of family involvement and commitment, the Ohana, that we value so deeply.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Name: Gail R. Lorenzo

Address: 4613 Onohi Lane Kalahao, Hi 96741

Phone No.: (808) 332-7085

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair,
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

I LIKEN OUR CLIENTS, WITH INTELLECTUAL
AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, TO MY 3 YR OLD
GRANDSON.
BOTH NEED CONSTANT SUPERVISION
& CARE TO PREVENT INJURY & ILLNESS.
I WOULD NOT LEAVE MY GRANDSON
UNATTENDED AT HOME NOR GO TO THE
STORE UNACCOMPANIED. WHY SHOULD
WE DO THIS TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS
WHO CANNOT CARE FOR THEMSELVES.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely: *Arbha & Mantaro*

Name: *Lor. Ann Groede*

Address: *PO BOX 527 LIME HI 96761*

Phone No.: *808-326-2409*

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair;
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Name:

KAPUA RAQUEL

Address:

P.O. BOX 59 ANAHOA HI 96703

Phone No.:

808-609-8100

April 1, 2009

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair,
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Finance

HEARING: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Room 308

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1679, SD2, HD1. This bill makes an appropriation from the emergency and budget fund of the State of Hawaii to maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to education, public health, and welfare. Specifically, I am supporting appropriations to restore the lost funding for the Department of Health's Respite, Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, and the Partnerships in Community Living Programs.

If the emergency appropriation is not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families and individuals with developmental disabilities that are served each day in these essential programs. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Karin Riedel

Name:

Karin Riedel

Address:

7074 Kaholalele Pl., Keaau, HI 96746

Phone No.:

(808) 631-9793

03/02/2009 10:00 AM

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance April 3, 2009 3:00 a.m. Room 308, State Capitol

Re: SB 1621, SD2 HD1 relating to Collective Bargaining.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee:

I respectfully request that you hold SB 1621, SD2 HD1. The entities that will be affected by this measure will increase the likelihood of them not surviving the additional costs, lost productivity, and bureaucratization of the workplace that come with procedures mandated by this measure. The bill will do away with secret ballot elections in union organizing drives, replacing them with a simple, 'card check' process that is open to harassment and intimidation. Employees should have the right to make their decision in private, not in the open. Also, the measure would impose binding arbitration on employers and employees if they couldn't agree on a first contract within 90 days, and both sides would have to live with the consequences for two years. The binding arbitration will hurt both employees who would be denied the ability to vote on the pay and benefits and the employer who could be saddled with a contract that is completely incompatible with its cost structure and business model. This could have a huge impact on the livelihood of the business and the security of jobs. Additionally, the bill would ratchet up penalties for labor law violations – on employers but not unions. Finally, our state has been focused on sustainability. This measure will undermine our efforts. Simply, unionization will increase the cost of locally produced food and weaken Hawaii's valuable but shrinking agricultural industry. Furthermore, this bill will hurt certain small businesses and entities. We should be focusing on finding ways to revitalize Hawaii's economy, not hinder it. For the above reasons, I strongly ask that you hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Philip E. Sammer, General Manager
'Ilima Hotel 445 Nohonani Street Honolulu, HI 96815-2622
Phone: 923-1877

Form Testimony

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (House Finance Committee)

Dear Representative Marcus R. Oshiro,

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD2 HD1. This bill includes appropriations for "safety net" services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver and Partnerships in Community Living programs, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, senior centers, and others.

I am a mother of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Through the DD waiver program I am most grateful for services that my daughter receives. She is not home bound and is out in the community where she has opportunities to make friends, socialize, learn to make good choices, and participate in activities such as water exercise, country line dancing and stretching. With the services my daughter is like a plant that has the right environment and nutrients to grow.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Janice C.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a sister of a person with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Without these services my sister would not be able to participate in community activities. Without these services she would not be able to get the help that she needs like being active and healthy within the community. Because my sister is able to have these services she is able to participate in meaningful activities within the community and live life like every other citizen.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (House Finance Committee)

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I am a mother of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. I am a single parent and my income is all of the support that I have. If there are any more cuts in services I will have to stay home to take care of my child and we will suffer severe financial difficulty. My child has cerebral palsy and epilepsy and I know that her care takers are trained to handle a seizure if she has one. I know that because of these services she is safe and I am able to work because she can be safe with her care providers.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Julie P.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a guardian of a niece with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. These services are important because they teach her independent living skills.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Brenda A.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

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Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a grandparent who has adopted my grandson with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. I am at the age where I cannot provide all of the supports that he needs and I cannot be as active with him as a young parent could be. The community based provide helps me to take my grandson to events and essential activities in his community. I want the hours to be restored for my grandson because he has very few hours of supports and when these hours are cut it makes a huge impact on his life. Without services my grandson would not be able to participate in the Special Olympics and would not be able to be actively involved in his community living life like everyone else. Without services my grandson would not have help and support to learn independent living skills. I believe that part of the money should go to the department of health to help provide services for the DD/MR population.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Linda C.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. My son benefits greatly from these services because they provide him with instruction on life skills, develop his independence and social interaction. My son would not be able to get these supports without the funding provided by the MR/DD Waiver. Easter Seals is an extremely important part of his life. It is so important for my son to lead a "normal" life, and with these supports he is able to get out into the community and really thrive as an individual.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Barbara B.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Bercetania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Without these services he could not be involved in the community. If he did not have these services he would be at home and not able to attend community events. I feel that it is really important for the DD community to receive services.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Sherry H.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. There have been cuts made already and my son has been affected by this because due to these cuts he no longer has one on one services. The lack of one on one service greatly affects my son because he is not able to participate in community events and which impacts his learning. I am in favor of any funding that can help restore these services.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Lauree K.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I am a parent of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. These services have helped my daughter in learning to socialize and could help her to work toward employment in the future. I feel that with this support she would be able to become more independent and give back to the community. I really want my daughter to become more independent but she has not yet been able to learn how to cross the street safely. With the services that she has gotten in the past under the DD Waiver she has improve her awareness of safety issues in the community. Routine and repetition are very important to her learning. The more she is out in the community and in those types of environments the more successful she will be in achieving her goals of safety and independence.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Rachel T.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Depriving our son from monthly services that allow him to go out into the community and participate in community activities. This is a disruption in his routine and he can no longer participate in these activities because he does not have the community based provider as a support.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Gordon S.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
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Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for my child. My son has benefited greatly from the supports provided by this program. This program has provided my son with routine and support within the community. These supports have allowed him to participate in community activities that he would not otherwise have the chance to be involved in. This program has also enabled my son to participate in meaningful activities in the community when he would otherwise be at home. Without the services provided by the MR/DD waiver, my son would have to be at home disengaged from the community.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Lianna M.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I am a sister of a person with a disability who has been able to access supports afforded by the MR/DD Waiver. With the support of these services I am able to go to work knowing that her needs are being met and that she is safe. My sister needs routine to function and the loss of this routine would result in confusion and increased agitation for her. My sister also has a great bond with her community based provider and this bond is essential to continuity of care and helps her to increase her daily functioning. My sister also has Alzheimer's and Dementia and a disruption in her routine may worsen these disorders. Without these services my sister would not be able to be as active or involved in the community. Not only am I able to go to work knowing that my sister is safe, but with these services she is able to participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Peggy M.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I work with people with disabilities that have been dramatically affected by the reduction of hours in the DD/MR Waiver services. This reduction has not only strongly impacted families and participants but also employees who have taken a reduction in hours as a result. Families now face concern with who will care for their loved one with less service hours and employees face challenges with how they are going to pay their bills. Caring for an individual with a disability or multiple disabilities is challenging enough without the added burden this reduction has brought. People have had to focus more time and attention on how they will deal with the reduction instead of caring for another human being in a vulnerable situation.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Lori L.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
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I work for a provider agency as a Service Supervisor who covers cases of people with developmental disabilities. I have seen first hand the effect of the recent budget reduction on families and participants and it has been a devastating process. Many of our families rely on services funded by the waiver program to work, support their loved ones and their household finances. Many families are unable to provide the opportunities that our provider agencies can provide for these participants.

With these essential services, our participants are able to learn valuable life skills in a safe environment. Our people are able to be included in their community with these waiver funded supports which every person on earth is entitled to. Many of the supports that we provide, families can not provide for the simple reason that they do not have the tools or resources that we do. I have assisted many participants with utilizing visual supports at day programs that families just do not have the resources for.

In reaction to the budget reduction, I have had to sit down with many family members who provide services to their loved ones and listen to their stories of how they do not know how they are going to make ends meet now that their hours have been cut so significantly. Others have shared how disappointed and sad they are that now their loved one will no longer be able to attend our ADH program which essentially means they will lose out on many opportunities that families can not provide.

After sitting down with all my families I support and doing my best to support them through this process, I have had to sit down with many staff to tell them that their hours have been cut so dramatically, now they are at risk of losing their benefits. The past couple of months have been so dismal; this budget reduction has affected so many people; not just the participants we serve. Our families and staff who have dedicated their lives to supporting people with disabilities truly believe that people are people, no matter what disability they may have.

Since I have been in the field of supporting people with disabilities, I have seen the quality of services we are able to provide dramatically and steadily improve. We have moved from excommunicating people from the world of "normal" by institutionalizing people to believing that ALL people have rights no matter what shape, size or disability. Cutting these funds and services will push us backwards many years.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Sara D.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I care for my sister who has a developmental disability. The support my sister receives through the MR/DD Waiver allows her to access support to a variety of programs that help support our household, my sister's quality of life, and her access of her community.

The Waiver allows me to get paid for supporting my sister through a provider agency. With out this support, I would not be able to support our household as I am unable to have another job. My sister is also able to work on her independence through the support of the day programs she attends. The programs provide meaningful activities and access into the community. These programs also support my sister with learning life skills and allow her to learn to do more things for herself. Since my sister's first language is Vietnamese, these programs assist my sister with learning better English and communicating her wants and needs more on her own.

The services that my sister receives are crucial for our household survival and also for my sister's quality of life. The services that she receives gives her the ability to participate in meaningful activities that allow her to have a life just like every other citizen. With out the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my sister would have to stay home and be disengaged from the community. Also, I would no longer be able to support our household's financial needs.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Nu G.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
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I am a parent of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. Because of these services I am able to go to work and have her be in a safe environment where her personal needs are met. Without these services I may not be able to work and meet my own family's needs or pay my mortgage. There is no other place for my daughter to go that could take care of her. If services were lost I would have to quite my job to care for her and we would loose our home. My daughter was born with only one kidney and also has seizures so she needs to be constantly monitored to make sure her medical needs are met. Without these services it would be impossible to meet her needs. I want you to be aware that my daughter is not just a case or another number but she is a real person who cannot take care of herself unless I can receive the help provided by the MR/DD waiver.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Janelle G.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I am a parent of a daughter with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. The services that my daughter receives are essential to her involvement in the community. Because of these services my daughter can be involved in the community and have access to activities like the Special Olympics.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Paul K.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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I am a parent of a son with a disability that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver. These services provide my son with outings and learning opportunities. The cuts that have already been made have had a big impact on my son's life because he has had difficulty adjusting to the changes in his routine and is no longer able to participate in the Special Olympics without these supports.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Kathy K.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

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I care for my nephew who has a developmental disability. As a result of the recent budget reduction, he is no longer able to attend his day program Monday through Friday; he has to stay home on Fridays now. Also, it has resulted a cut in my own hours which has affected our household's situation dramatically.

When my nephew attends the day program, he is able to access his community and his challenging behaviors are supported. Also, since I am also caring for my husband who's health has recently declined, I am overwhelmed at home. I try to do my best to support my nephew and my husband but it is often taxing on my own health as well as I do not often get a break.

The Adult Day Habilitation program that my nephew attends is crucial in obtaining behavioral supports that he needs, participating in meaningful activities and overall, they are able to support him in ways that I am not capable of at home.

Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, my nephew would miss out on meaningful opportunities for him to manage his challenging behaviors and participate in activities that are crucial for him having a meaningful life. Since I do not drive, I am unable to assist my nephew with going out into the community very often.

Without these services, I would lose my paycheck that I receive assisting my nephew with his provider agency and also I will miss out on the support that they provide to me and my family to assist my nephew. Since I have to care for both my nephew and my husband, I am unable to work any other job and the funding that this service brings into my household is vital for survival.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Blossom A.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair of the House Finance Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD2 HD1-Relating the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009, 4:30pm (House Finance Committee)

Dear Representative Marcus R. Oshiro,

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1679 SD2 HD1**. This bill includes appropriations for "safety net" services-DOH Respite, the DD Division Medicaid Waiver and Partnerships in Community Living programs, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Healthy Start, Mental Health services, Kupuna care services, senior centers, and others.

I work with people with disabilities that have been dramatically affected by the reduction of hours in the DD/MR Waiver services. This reduction has not only strongly impacted families and participants but also employees who have taken a reduction in hours as a result. Families now face concern with who will care for their loved one with less service hours and employees face challenges with how they are going to pay their bills. Caring for an individual with a disability or multiple disabilities is challenging enough without the added burden this reduction has brought. People have had to focus more time and attention on how they will deal with the reduction instead of caring for another human being in a vulnerable situation.

If these appropriations are not approved as soon as possible, the state will be putting at risk the thousands of families that are or were served each month in these very valuable programs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support of SB 1679 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Gladys T

SB 1679 SD2 HD1

WE RECEIVED OVER
200 OF THE ATTACHED
FORM TESTIMONY.

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009 (4:30 p.m., Room 308)

RE: Support of SB 1679, SD2, HD1, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

I am 77 years old and use the van service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

**Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:**

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need Kupuna Care services because:

I have no car

If I did NOT HAVE THIS HELP, I would:

not go shopping

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Lynn Ma

Address:

114 N Kua Kua
