

LATE

March 16, 2009

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair

Hearing:

10:45 A.M., Tuesday, March, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

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

Testimony in Support of Certain Provisions

Chairs Yamane and Mizuno, and members of the Committee on Health, and the Committee on Human Services. I am here on behalf of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB1679, SD2, which would appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs education, human services, and health.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was founded in 1948, 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. This mission includes advocating for effective tobacco control measures to reduce and prevent smoking by children and young adults.

We have studied the provisions as well as amendments to SB1679, SD2, and we strongly support SECTION 14, that would allocate funds for direct health care to the uninsured, which may include primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. We also recognize the need to ensure adequate funding for other essential human services programs in the state.

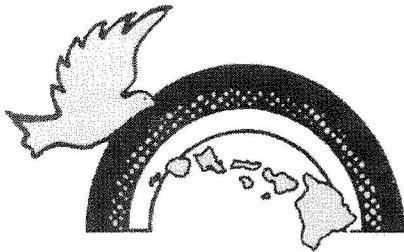
This bill if passed will ensure that we retain our health safety net which will only have more demands placed upon it as our economic situation becomes more unsettling.

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



LATE

The Arc of Kauai

For Children and Adults with Disabilities

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

March 17, 2009

Honorable Representative Yamane, Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health
Honorable Representative Mizuno, Chair and
Members of the Committee on Human Services
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Health Committee and Chair Mizuno and Members of the Human Services 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 1961. 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.

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 approximately \$162,850.64 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
Page 2
March 17, 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 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@vipuhawaii.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ellen Ching
Executive Director

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Pamela Haydon [pjo@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 9:54 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: resending testimony for 10:45 today?/SB1679

This is a second sending in email format for House Human Services Committee, as a similar attachment was reported as unable to be opened. THANK YOU!

March 14, 2009, To The Hawaii State Legislature, Regular Session 2009

From: Murray Williams, man with a developmental disability and his family,

The Archibald's, P.O. Box 290, Honaunau, Hawaii 96726, (808) 328-8149

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair of The House Human Services Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 10:45 am, conference room 329,

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania

Senate Bill 1679, Senate Draft 2, Relating The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Please pass Bill 1679. My life depends on it's allocation.

For part of my life I stayed in the residential setting of Waimano State Hospital.

The state closed Waimano and gave us Medicaid Waiver, Home and Community Based Services.

Please help to stop the cutting of services in the community that I need to survive.

There is no more Waimano to go back to and I can not make it on my own.

Please don't lose the matching federal dollars to add to state dollars.

Today I am a 44 year old man with Down Syndrome. There aren't so many like me being born any more. Now medicine can find my kind of chromosome in a pregnancy test. Lots of these mothers get abortions. I am still here though and everybody who knows me really does like me. The truth is that I would never want to go back to living at Waimano State Hospital. Now in my life I can swim, go paddling in an outrigger canoe, do my own chores, and most important, be in my circle of support with family, friends, and caring professionals. They make sure I get exercise, stay healthy, safe and I have learned to walk without a walker.

To lose the services that the state provides would be like abandonment.

Thank you for helping take care of me.

I look forward to meeting you when I visit the Legislature on March 19th

Born on Maui, Murray Williams

----- Original Message -----

From: Pamela Haydon
To: HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:59 PM

Subject: #2 of two testimonies for Murray Williams

Please submit it the attached, written testimony, thank you.

March 14, 2009, To The Hawaii State Legislature, Regular Session 2009

From: Murray Williams, man with a developmental disability and his family,

The Archibald's, P.O. Box 290, Honaunau, Hawaii 96726, (808) 328-8149

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair of The House Human Services Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 10:45 am, conference room 329

Senate Bill 1679, Senate Draft 2, Relating The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Danielle Bass on behalf of Rep. Ryan Yamane
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 10:05 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony on SB 1679 SD2

From: ROBERT MATSUMOTO [mailto:rkmbengoshi@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 9:56 AM
To: Rep. Ryan Yamane; Rep. John Mizuno
Subject: Testimony on SB 1679 SD2

ROBERT K. MATSUMOTO
Attorney at Law
345 Queen St., Suite 701
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (808) 585-7244
Facsimile: (808) 585-7284
Email: rkmbengoshi@hawaii.rr.com

No. of pages including this page: 1

DATE: March 17, 2009

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health

Rep. John M. Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Human Service

RE: SB 1679 SD2
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Date & Time of Hearing: 3/17/09 @ 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Gentlemen:

As a parent and guardian of a person and a board member of the ARC in Hawaii, a non-profit organization serving persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, I urge you to vote and pass SB 1679 SD 2 out of your respective committees.

Over the years I have observed how the programs sustained by state and federal funding have helped disadvantaged persons with various disabilities. Any significant cut in funding will deny persons with developmental disabilities the opportunity to prosper in our society. Moreover, if family members must then cut their work hours in order to care for persons with developmental disabilities, this would put a great strain on their families. Furthermore, this would erode the ability of these family members to help pay some of the taxes that support programs and services such as those now being provided by the ARC in Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention and your concerns.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Matsumoto

This communication contains confidential and privileged information. It is exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you receive it in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or fax and return the original by mail.

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Michelle Pietsch [Michelle@mfss.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:20 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: I support SD 1679 SD2

To Whom it May Concern,

I support SD 1679 SD2

Please secure funding for Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start Programs in order to continue the **critical work** being done in the homes of **needy and overwhelmed families** with young children 0-3 years old. These families, often in crisis, **depend on the supportive services Healthy Start** and Enhanced Healthy Start provide which consist of child development and parenting information, crisis intervention and guidance to outside resources. **Healthy Start services are a life line for families in need** and without them we can be sure child abuse and neglect will increase.

Sincerely,
Michelle Pietsch
Intake Supervisor
Maui Family Support Services

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.

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:54 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: colleen@mfss.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 3/17/2009 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HUS 3/17/2009 10:45:00 AM SB1679

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colleen Welty
Organization: Individual
Address: 328 Hololani St. Pukalani, HI 96768
Phone: 808-572-0964
E-mail: colleen@mfss.org
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

Please support this bill to fund Healthy Start at \$9 Million. I have seen 1st hand how much this program helps parents of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens to grow into better parents who can foster the growth and development of fully functioning youngsters.

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 10:45am (Joint Committee on Health and Human
Services), Conference Room 329

Dear Representatives Yamane and Mizuno & Members of the Joint Committees on Human
Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679 SD 2. 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 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**. I can
be reached at 854-6833 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Debbie Seghorn

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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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**. I can
be reached at 756-0998 for any further questions.

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

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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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**. I can be reached at 640-2772 or 15-573 South Puni Mauka Lp. Pahoia, HI 96778 for any further questions.

Sincerely,
Harriet Schilling

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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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 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**. I can
be reached at 989-7685 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kaliko AhYo

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SB 1679 SD 2- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
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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 Nanimahealani 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**. I can
be reached at 938-9200 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nanimahealani Saffery

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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My name is Tisha Takazawa and I work with individuals with disabilities every day. I support SB 1679 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**. I can be reached at 640-4328 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Tisha Takazawa
27-1049 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Pepee'okeo, HI 96783

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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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**. I can be reached at (808) 989-0426, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

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

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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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**. I can be contacted at 16-785 Kikania, Kea'au, HI 96749 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Anna-Lisa Pabro

LATE

Monday, March 16, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane and John Mizuno
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Human Services & Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
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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**. I can
be reached at 933-2344 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chloe Awong-Seghorn

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lbraucher@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1679 on 3/17/2009 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HUS 3/17/2009 10:45:00 AM SB1679

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynne Braucher
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 1721 Kea'au, HI
Phone: 808-938-4393
E-mail: lbraucher@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments: