

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** OF SB 1679. 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 an administrative assistant with Easter Seals Hawaii, Ewa ADH Program. I was sad to hear when the State of Hawaii implemented budget reductions that took effect on February 1, 2009. Some participants looked so sad at the end of the day on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> when they said "see you tomorrow" and in turn I would say, no "I'll see you on Monday!" So many participants looked forward to coming to program Mondays-Fridays. It feels so different to see about only 1/3 of the participants who attended program on Fridays. I miss the other 2/3 of our participants who can't come due to the budget reduction. What are they doing on Fridays now? Is someone home to be with them? If so, how much of a hardship it is on those parents, guardians and/or caregivers to give up work for 1 day/week. It also has affected my coworkers who also had hours cut 1day/week due to less participants coming to program. Just as we strive to provide excellent services and help many in need, budgets are cut and has caused turmoil for participants, families, guardians, caregivers, and staff. We need funds to help keep us going instead of fall behind due to lack of money. Everyone is doing their best to come up with the best solutions but how long will that last without funds?! Also, who will take care of those who can't take care of or speak for themselves?! I beg you to please consider the emergency appropriation.*

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) 927-9025 (cellular) for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Leann S. Uehira  
Fairway Village at Waikele  
94-824 Lumiauw Street, Y101  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Monday, February 09, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 grandparent of a child with a disability. My grandchild received services from Easter Seals Hawai'i and, I have two children that are employed by Easter Seals Hawai'i. I believe that Easter Seals provides services that are much needed for children and adults with disabilities. It is sad to see their services being cut!***

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 808-887-0942, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Yvette Swope

Monday, February 9, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 work for a non-profit that supports individuals with disabilities and their families. The DOH Medicaid Waiver program offers an invaluable service to these individuals to lead safe, productive and fulfilling lives. Participants have been able to live out in the community rather than live an oppressed life in a nursing home. This has saved the state a substantial amount of money through the years while giving dignity to their lives. Waiver services have meant that these individuals have been able to find and retain gainful employment, giving back to their communities.

I have seen individuals flourish with the support that Waiver offers; learning skills that so many of us take for granted (like brushing ones teeth, bathing themselves, learning to do laundry, etc), learning social skills that allow them to interact with people in their inner circle and with people in the community, being able to simply go out to see a movie- hear a concert- going to the mall. By reducing the individual's budget, it limits the choices and activities that each person can do thus making them more vulnerable to safety issues and becoming more dependent on others for their care rather than becoming more 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**. I can be reached at 678-3754 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Gladys Taketa-Benton

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 Doreen Dela Cruz We need funds to support our handicap's they are in need of  
getting help. As a parent of an handicap child I know how hard it is just seeing them  
suffer and yet they taking the funds from them. Please help our handicap's and  
disable. Thank you

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,  
Doreen Dela Cruz  
(808)963-6677

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 work for Easter Seals Hawaii on Maui. Please support SB1679 so that the people we support will continue to receive desperately needed services and so that I can keep my job, benefits and my livelihood.

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 808-249-2065, for any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Soto

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. 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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 enjoy my services. I am sad that my services has been cut. I would like to have my services  
given back to me. I enjoy going out into the community and doing activities. I feel a part 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**. I can be  
reached at 808-249-2065, for any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Babaya, Participant who received MR/DD Services

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 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**. I can be reached at 640-4328 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 a 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 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,

Helen Trusdell

Monday, February 09, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 an Easter Seals Hawai'i employee. Recently the state cut a part of our funding that supports our Medicaid Waiver Program. Through the waiver, it allows our participants with developmental disabilities to be important members of our community. I see first hand how the recent budget cuts have effective our participants. Participants have less time to access their community and work on their goals. It has been difficult for families to find coverage for the times that are being cut, especially for the families that need to work to support their family. The cuts have also affected the 80 plus direct services workers that we employ. Some of their paychecks have been cut in half and some are losing their medical benefits. It has defiantly become a hardship for participants, families and our workers especially in these tough times.***

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 808-557-3795, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Gracie Pakani

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings - Senate Committee on Human Services & Health  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 1679-Relating to the emergency and budget reserve fund

Dear Senators:

I am the mother of five school age children, two of whom have developmental disabilities. One of my boys will need significant care for the rest of his life being that he is unable to care for himself and needs much assistance. Because of their disabilities, my husband and I have changed the way we do everything in order to give all of our children a stable, happy, and healthy environment. As a family with disabled children our activities are limited. What simple things other families take for granted, we struggle through or are unable to do at all. My disabled boys are on a waiver program from Easter Seals on the Big Island of Hawaii. This is wonderful organization which truly works to make these kids lives more normalized and appreciated. These services have been a God Send. I am able to work from home and my husband is able to run a small business where he can have a flexible schedule in order to cope with the demands disabled children bring. With out these services and personal assistance it would turn a difficult situation into a absolute heartbreak.

I applaud the efforts of the State Government to cut spending especially during this economic down turn. As a citizen and taxpayer, I am appalled and angered at the wasteful spending, and many programs can be cut. But it is a moral crime in our society to take funds from those who absolutely cannot care for themselves. We are blessed with a supporting family but I know of many other families that are not so lucky and are so overwhelmed they could not even think about taking the time to write to you - so I am also writing for them.

Another cut to these wonderful programs which give families so much hope, support, and dignity, would be disastrous. We are not a file number, we each have a purpose. My disabled children have changed my life and made me a much better person - they truly are a blessing. I strongly support SB 1679 which 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 support 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. You must not lose this opportunity. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fronte  
(808)968-6386  
[efronte@sonic.net](mailto:efronte@sonic.net)

Monday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Susanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige 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-RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm(Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing) Conference room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1679. 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 currently providing services as a care giver to two autistic boys. I am writing on their behalf and on the behalf of all those who have special needs and who desperately need our help. These children have no voice other than the one given to them by those who care for their welfare. With out the Waiver, Respite, and PICL programs many of these children and adults with special needs and their families would have little hope or dignity.

I have worked in this field for over 10 years and feel very strongly about the care and support those with special needs deserve. At one time society just locked these "unwanted" ones away in institutions for the horrific crime of being different. I have both read and heard horror stories about these institutions where some of these children would have to go simply because their families do not have the resources to deal with them. I beg all of you who have the power to keep this from happening to support SB 1679. Any more cuts would be tragic to these families. I appreciate the chance to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Catherine Moylan  
[catmoylan@calicom.net](mailto:catmoylan@calicom.net)

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 Down's Syndrome 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. She is able to attend a day program, where she is able to socialize with others, do community service work, and learn basic life skills. She is a much happier person because of these services, and we are happier parents because without the services provided, someone would have to stay home with her. Please continue to provide funding for these services for parents and children like my daughter.*

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 735-3656, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Gail Muranaka

Testimony for Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health

**Wade is 33 years old.** He has a dual diagnosis of Mental Retardation and Mental Illness Prior to DD/MR Waiver services Wade was overweight, caught up in an addiction, and nearly homeless. His dental care was neglected. The PICL Program paid for his 13 cavities to be filled at Maui Oral Health Care. He was in pain in addition to his disability. He still needs more dental work, but there are no more PICL funds. On Maui many DD/MR Waiver people get dental services only through PICL funds.

Wade has a difficult family dynamic (which is why I am his Public Guardian). It is because of the DD/MR Waiver Program that Wade is able to stay at his home. He receives services daily by a caregiver who takes him out into the community for exercise, social interaction, and medical care. His service hours are only 40 hours per week. Any reduction of these hours and Wade's lifestyle will become problematic. He qualifies for institutional care but it has been prevented through the DD/MR Waiver services. It would be a hardship to maintain Wade's care without the needed level of service hours.

Submitted by Aiona Rose, Public Guardian to Wade Winkler

**My daughter Luisa is 23 years old.** She has Cerebral Palsy with Seizures and Mental Retardation. Luisa is totally wheel chair dependant. She is fed 4 times a day through a G-tube which provides nutrition as well as medications. We stay with our daughter every hour of the day and night, she is mostly blind. Luisa needs to be dressed and bathed with the help of 2 people.

I am Luisa's caregiver and so are her mother and brother. She receives 18 hrs/day of paid services through the DD/MR Waiver Program. My understanding is this amount is significantly less than a nursing home for which she is eligible. The proposed budget reduction would allow for only 15.5 hours of paid services a day. That leaves 8.5 hours per day of uncovered hours. Each of us three workers make a low income wage so that we can provide Luisa quality care. Now we are asked to work less. How will Luisa get her care if we need to find other jobs to supplement the reduction of hours? Please help Luisa continue to receive the level of care she needs. Thank you.

Submitted by Rubie Andres, father, guardian, and caregiver for Luisa Andres.

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.  
881 Akiu Place  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(808) 218-3457

DATE: February 10, 2009

RE: Support for SB1679

Good afternoon. As has been accurately described in Section I of this proposal and as reflected on the front page of today's Star-Bulletin: "Obama warns of economic 'catastrophe'" - "Rise in crime, drugs reported" Hawaii and the nation are being confronted with the consequences of an economic downturn, a reduction in revenue and an emergency situation. Ten years ago the legislature had the wisdom and foresight to establish an emergency and budget reserve fund for the unlikely event of a state emergency of this magnitude and sad to say, the time has clearly come to utilize that fund.

I cannot speak to the educational nor health considerations of this measure, but can tell you after working in the area of social services for 20+ years that the human services aspect is a crucial need. If you look at any point in history where a society has faced economic stress or uncertainty, a few things will be apparent to you besides the job loss and economic consequences: rates of abuse, violence and "social ills" rise in tandem with the economic strain as do the requests for public and governmental assistance.

Human services programs and non-profit organizations are often the first to sustain tremendous financial blows because they do not generate revenue so cuts, freezes and reduction in services occur dramatically and overnight just as the **need** for these services and programs experience an increase in demand. If ever there was a time to access this emergency fund for Hawaii's human services, NOW is the time to do so - before it gets any worse. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of intervention."

At the same time, accessing emergency reserve funds is only one option to others that exist. One of the first things our new president did was initiate a pay freeze for his top White House staff. In Michigan, an auto industry company implemented a 3 day "work without pay" plan in an effort to maintain their employees (rather than having to lay them off). There are things that many of us can do to "tighten out belts" so while I do feel it's time to access emergency funds, I also think it's time we got creative on how to get us **all** through this crisis as one ohana because ultimately, that's what's at stake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.  
Independent Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

**Child and Family Service**  
91-1841 Ft. Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

Bill No: SB1679	Title: Relating to the Emergency Reserve Fund
Committee: Committee on Human Services, Committee on Health	Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:15pm Place: State Capitol, Room 016
Submitted by: Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO, Child and Family Service	Contact Information: Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
Testimony in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSITION of proposed bill.	

Child and Family Service supports SB1679 - Use of the Emergency Reserve Funds  
We would like to have included in this bill the Kupuna Care Programs.

The mission of Child and Family Service is to Strengthen Families and foster the healthy development of children. We do this by providing services from Keiki to Kupuna. A strong family is the backbone of our society which includes our elders. Hawaii's strength comes from it's `Ohana, we recognize the purpose of our Kupuna is to lead the family and to then be supported by them. We believe that supporting our seniors will also help us to stabilize our economy by preventing premature institutionalization which in turn will increase the state dollars needed to pay for long term care for our Kupuna.

The State's population is growing older faster than any other state, according to DBET. In 2005, 18.7% of Hawaii's population is 60 years of age and older (seventh in the nation), and 28.7% of Hawaii's households has at least one person 65 years of age and older (2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation). Life expectancy nationally is 77.5 years, while the age for Hawaii is 79.8 years (1<sup>st</sup> in the nation).

In the 2008 State of Hawaii, Older Adult Needs Assessment, a report prepared for the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving, those sampled had a higher percentage of individuals with Activities of Daily Living (Eating, Dressing, Personal Hygiene, Bathing, Toileting, Transferring and Mobility) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (Prepare Meals, Shopping, Take Medications, Manage Money, Use Telephone, Housework, Use Public Transport) impairments. Over half required assistance with personal care and other ADLs and almost the same amount (51.5%) needed assistance with arranging for their own care.

The Kupuna Care Program started in 1999 with the goal that Hawaii's older adults will have access to affordable and quality - home and community based services that are client centered and family supported allowing them to live with independence and dignity.

Following guidelines set by the state the program offers case management, assisted transportation, home delivered meals, attendant or companion services, chore or homemaker services and personal care. Together with other senior services in Hawaii, the Kupuna Care Programs provide a safety net to our frail, isolated and low income seniors. Without this net of protection our seniors face continued decline, hospitalization and institutionalization.

In 2008 Kupuna Care Services assisted 9,253 individuals in Hawaii. On average a senior may receive 2-3 meals a week (121 meals per year), 1-2 hours per week of personal care (68 hours per year), 1 round trip transport per week (56 one way trips per year), 4 hours of chore service per year or 17 hours of case management per year. As you can see the assistance provided falls short of the need but is enough to supplement other sources of support to help seniors stay at home.

The Kupuna Care Program is cost effective. In 2008 voluntary contributions accounted for almost 16% of the Kupuna Care expenditures. Kupuna Care Programs expand services by utilizing volunteers. For example Lanakila MOW uses 1,344 volunteers who provide 24,543 hours of service delivering meals. The value of this service is \$184,075 and without it a full 2/3 of the meals would not be delivered.

By caring for our Kupuna we are in turn caring for their family members. The economic impact of family caregiving is significant. In *Valuing the Invaluable: The Economic Value of Family Caregiving, 2008 Update*, a study conducted by the AARP Public Policy Institute, found the value of caregiving at \$1.25 billion in Hawaii. The cost of this care continues to rise as the number of individuals needing care increase. If these costs were shifted to health insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, it would dramatically increase health care costs and this increase would impact us all. We know that family members are impacted by the stress of caregiving, often taking time off work or quitting their jobs. According to the assessment over 25% of Hawaii's households have at least one individual providing informal unpaid care for an adult aged 60 or older with physical or cognitive disabilities. Over 55 percent of these caregivers are employed and of this total, over 26% indicated that their employment was affected by their caregiving responsibilities. Over 77% took time off from work to deal with caregiving responsibilities. Caregivers stated they work less hours, turn down promotions and take leaves of absence. Caregivers who do not have access to adequate relief from their duties and who lack knowledge of the aging process and their reactions to caregiving can suffer from emotional and physical exhaustion. In many situations, such exhaustion can lead to inadequate care, abuse or neglect of the senior and sometimes premature institutionalization.

Evidenced-based studies have reported that early intervention is the key to better outcomes for seniors requiring supportive services to remain in their community. A 2002 study reported in *The Gerontologist*, "Effects of a Community-Based Early Intervention Program on the Subjective Well-Being, Institutionalization, and Mortality of Low-Income Elders", "those elders who received the intervention (case management) had significantly higher subjective well-being and were less likely to be institutionalized or die than those in a comparison group (remained on waiting lists for case management) across the 18-month period." The study states that the implications of the results are that they "make a strong case for the importance of community-based programs to the well-being of elders".

**STATE OF HAWAII  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE  
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 - 1:15PM**

RE: SB 1679

**IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Jay Raymundo and I am the Chief Operating Officer of Aloha Habilitation Services, a home and community-based Medicaid waiver provider for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental retardation (DD/MR).

Currently our organization serves 130 individuals of the roughly 2500 individuals with DD/MR in the State of Hawaii. The services that we provide include, Personal Assistance Habilitation (PAB), Residential Habilitation (RES/HAB), CHORE Services, Skilled Nursing and Respite. Approximately 30 individuals of the 130 have Respite services as agreed upon in their Individual Service Plans (ISP) – a plan which is basically an assessment of the individual with DD/MR created by a team of social workers, providers, families/friends, guardians/legal representatives, and other professionals such as nurses, physical therapists, psychiatrists, behaviorists, and other allied health professionals.

A reduction in Respite services will have a significant impact on our individuals receiving this service. Respite services are meant to help relieve families who are not able to care for their children or relatives because these families (particularly the parents of these individuals) are well in their 70s or even 80s, and some of them have health challenges of their own. As much as these families would like to help their children or relatives with DD/MR, it can be very difficult for them, especially in our economic situation.

Having a care provider or direct support worker provide respite services will ensure that the individual with DD/MR will have the support to maintain health and safety standards in times when the family is unable to do so. Therefore, I am in strong support of SB 1679 which will allocate some funds, if not, restore all funds back into the DD/MR DD Division Respite and Partnerships in Community Living (PICL) program.

Thank you for your support as well!!

Jay Raymundo

Testimony for HMS-HTH 2/10/2009 1:15:00 PM SB1679

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: marvin holley  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 301b west puainako st. hilo,hawaii  
Phone: 808-959-6719  
E-mail: [gholley@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gholley@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

as a foster parent to two young men with multiple disabilities. i cannot begin to express how the quality of life of my boys will be detrimentally impacted if their service provider Full life of Pahoia were to be defunded if this measure is defeated. Both of my boys require an environment with as little change to their routines as possible and Full life has been their provider for the last 2 years and they have done an exceptional job of giving them the support they need. Most of their direct service workers have been with them for that whole time. They have repeatedly demonstrated in addition to their professionalism their personal support and caring. I can't begin to see how we will cope if they become insolvent and if that infrastructure goes away it probably won't be back in the near future . Thank you for your attention and hopefully your support on this issue. sincerely, Marvin Holley

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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.***

What PA services means to us.

It allows me to work, knowing that my daughter is safe and cared for; That her goals and dreams are being honored and encouraged; That I am setting a good example for my daughter by being a productive member of society.

It allows my daughter to share her day when we meet at night, rejoicing at her new skills my daughter, or comforting her through her frustrations.

It allows us to be a family.

Lupo Paupore

PLI

Toll Free #: (888) 844-7679 xt 80

Toll Free Fax (877) 693-6486

Direct # : (808) 928-8286

Cell # : (808) 895-1975

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be reached at (808)935-6046, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Marlene Miprano

Monday, February 9, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 4 children with disabilities, 3 of whom have been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver program. These services provide invaluable support on a day to day basis in caring for and meeting their individual needs. 2 of the children need constant supervision for their safety and well-being. Without these services, I will be the only person to take care of every one of their needs. I know that I cannot do this alone. Because of these services, my children are able to function better within the home and have become a part of our community. I have also been able to go to school to further my education, therefore helping me to be a better parent. Without the services, I will have to meet the demands of all my children alone, and I am concerned that my own health will deteriorate. If that were to happen, I really won't be of help to them and I worry about who will care for them. Please help me in safeguarding my children by allowing them to receive the necessary help that they need to continue to have a quality life.*

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 668-7285 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Charlzetta Croker

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be reached at (808)959-9511, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ted Furuta

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be reached at (808)966-7579, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Melillo

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing),  
Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 service supervisor at an agency that provides services to the MR/DD Waiver population. As you already know the families that we serve have been asked to make cuts and sacrifice services because of the recent budget reductions. Many families have lost 15% or more of their services and are in a tight spot. Several participants in our program are severely disabled and need constant care. I feel that it is unfair to ask these people to take a cut in services because they would not be able to hold down a job and care for their loved one without the support provided by the MR/DD Waiver. This means that families will have to give up their jobs to stay at home and provide care, resulting in other consequences like loosing their home because of inability to pay their mortgage or going on welfare because of the lack of income to support their family. If families do not quit their jobs they will be forced to place their loved on in an institution because there will be no one else to provide care for them. Either way, it will ultimately be more expensive for the state to provide institutional care or other welfare services to families than it will be for the state to award some money from the emergency reserve budget to ensure that this does not happen. Please do not make an already bad financial situation worse for families, participants and the state in general. I urge you to use some of the money from the Emergency reserve budget to help support our families in these difficult economic times.***

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 678-3754, for any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Giroux, B.A.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 an employee and advocate of participants with disabilities that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for people. With the support of these services I am able to provide services and ensure needs are being met and that participants are safe. I am able to put family's minds at peace when they need to go to work, and know their family members who receive services are able to participate in meaningful activities that allow them to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, participants may have to be home alone, disengaged from the community, and could create major health and safety concerns.

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)681-0747, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Charles Cruz

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 an employee and advocate of participants with disabilities that has been able to access support afforded by the services offered in the MR/DD Waiver in order to care for people. With the support of these services I am able to provide services and ensure needs are being met and that participants are safe. I am able to put family's minds at peace when they need to go to work, and know their family members who receive services are able to participate in meaningful activities that allow them to have a life just like every other citizen. Without the services provided under the MR/DD Waiver, participants may have to be home alone, disengaged from the community, and could create major health and safety concerns.

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)681-0747, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Charles "Bo" Roy

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

Please accept this testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 Esperanza Tapiz. I am a full time caregiver and also need a full time job to make sure needed items for participant/client is taken care of. Without the DD/MR Waiver program services participants/clients will not have the full benefits as they do now. From a social setting participants gain sensory, range of motion, socialization etc. as in a home setting they are limited and not given the full extent of what the programs can offer. Please pass this bill.

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)672-0099, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Esperanza Tapiz

Monday, February 09, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 grandparent of a child with a disability. My grandchild received services from Easter  
Seals Hawai'i and, I have two children that are employed by Easter Seals Hawai'i. I believe  
that Easter Seals provides services that are much needed for children and adults with  
disabilities. It is sad to see their services being cut!***

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 808-887-0942, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Yvette Swope

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 foster parent, and adoptive parent of children with developmental disabilities, and am so  
saddened by the choice of cuts being in this MR/DD waiver. I fully support SB1679***

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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.***

Our son is diagnosed with Autism. One of the characteristics of Autism is that they do not do  
well with change. My son suddenly had his services changed last week, with little warning. He  
keeps asking why he does not get to see his staff, Ken, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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 874-5519, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Bob and Eva Kalinich

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 a therapist for the past 25 years spending each day helping people with disabilities. I  
have never seen anything so drastic that has affected the lives of people with disabilities and their  
families. The recent budget reductions have severely put people at risk and all of us as a  
community will suffer if this is not addressed soon. I appreciate that we all need to cut back right  
now and the economy is in a challenging time....but, we can not let this rest on the backs of  
people that are unable to self-preserve. All of us need to do our part to ensure that people with  
disabilities are given every opportunity to be successful, challenged, and live their life dream.  
More importantly, we need to make sure that we have provided them all the support they need to  
be safe!

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) 384-7579, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Keller-Collins

Monday, February 9, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be  
reached at 756-0998 for any further questions.

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 a 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 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,

Helen Trusdell

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

Please accept this testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 son Robert and daughter Janet attend Easter Seals Hawai'i and without these funds it would  
be difficult for them to continue. Since they need the continuing socialization and mental  
stimulation this program affords, they would lose a very important part of their lives. This is  
something that I have fought for, for our many deserving challenged adults. Please pass this bill.

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)672-0099, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Russell

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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  
Keaau Hi 96749  
(808)968-6255

Monday, February 9, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 work as a Program Manager for a non-profit organization that provides DD/MR Waiver services. These past 2 months have been difficult for families and direct support workers. We have spent many days (and some nights) meeting and listening to families regarding the affects the current budget cuts have had on them. We hear about single parents who care for several children with disabilities and who without our support, the family unit would crumble. We hear about mothers who provide care to their child who is totally dependent. Meetings with direct support workers have not been easy either. Telling people that their work hours are getting cut is difficult, knowing that they may lose their medical benefits or be at risk for homelessness. The support of this bill is crucial to the lives of so many people.***

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 779-6817 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Denise Bartimus

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 Doreen Dela Cruz We need funds to support our handicap's they are in need of  
getting help. As a parent of an handicap child I know how hard it is just seeing them  
suffer and yet they taking the funds from them. Please help our handicap's and  
disable. Thank you

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,  
Doreen Dela Cruz  
(808)963-6677

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be reached at 808-990-2701, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nalani Aiwohi



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII\*  
MĀNOA

Late 1679

February 10, 2009

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Human Services Committee  
Senator David Ige, Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Members of the Committees  
Hawaii State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 1697, Relating to the Rainy Day Fund

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige:

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute and I am testifying in support of SBN 1679.

The current economic downturn is affecting many businesses and individuals necessitating major cuts in the state budget for all services. As stated in the bill, in economic crises people in poverty do suffer the most. Studies also show that in economic crisis, both domestic violence and child abuse rates increase.

It is hoped that the Economic Recovery Act will provide funding relief for additional food supplies and low income housing, which are two areas of great need. <sup>for safety net services</sup>

Another area of great need is to ensure the safety of young children, particularly those of overburdened parents who were already at risk due both to poverty and their own early adverse childhood experiences. This is the population addressed by the Healthy Start program, which has been eliminated from the state budget.

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

- Policy experts now recognize from research that the emotional development of children of families in poverty is significantly affected by the stresses of the parents in regard to continual financial crisis (Policy Brief: The Impact of Poverty on Early Childhood Development, Centre for Community Child Health, Victoria, Australia).
- As noted above, poverty is a major risk factor for abuse, which becomes exacerbated in times of economic crisis. (Prevent Child Abuse America research summary, 2008)
- Healthy Start assists families to obtain <sup>survival</sup> needed resources as part of the basic approach to stabilizing families and reducing stress; resources that families often do not know about or how to access on their own. As such, it is an important part of the safety net.
- Healthy Start addresses a range of issues as included in the Family Stress Checklist screening tool, which are risk factors for abuse and poor developmental outcomes.
- Healthy Start has a track record of stabilizing families and averting adverse experiences in early childhood over many years, as evidenced by the low occurrences of actual abuse and neglect among families served, and the high rate of families at very high risk who are identified, served and sometimes referred to CPS's threatened harm and continue to work with the families through Healthy Start or Enhanced Healthy Start.

- The Center for Disease Control has endorsed home visiting as an effective intervention to avert abuse and promote healthy development.

Healthy Start has an identified cost benefit ratio of 2.7:1, 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.

Documentation on typical case profiles, intervention and outcomes, child protective referrals, as well as studies and policy papers which support this program are available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1697.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Director  
Hawaii Family Support Institute



Hawaii  
**Habitat  
for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
Association

*Building  
houses,  
building  
hope*

LATE 1679

**Testimony on SB 1679: Relating to the  
Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund  
Senate Committees on Health and Human Services  
Conference Room 16, 2/10/09, 1:15 p.m.**

This testimony is requesting that Rainy Day Funds be used for Homeless Prevention.

It is possible that we have become used to seeing people who are homeless. Where I live in Moiliili I see homeless people every day. They live in Old Stadium Park, and on the stairs of the library. They eat at Burger King and spend the days where they can. At night, living my office in the early evening I am used to seeing homeless people in the doorways on Bishop St. and in the morning I am greeted by people sleeping in the doorways on Bethel Street and in the park next to Hawaii Theatre.

The numbers of homeless people in Hawaii have grown considerably in the last 10 years. It is such an incremental growth that we may have come to accept it. But how many of us have delved into the personal tragedies that have resulted in the sleeping forms. How many of us have calculated what it would take for us, or our parents or children, to join their ranks.

It wouldn't take very much to become homeless, according to a state study, which determined that 262,000 of us are less than 3 months of pay checks away from being homeless. Only 3 months. And another 92,000 of us are much closer to homelessness – unable to afford to pay the high costs of rent those 92,000 of us live with friends and family, live in shared housing renting rooms for \$500 – 600 a month. Added together this is nearly 1/3 of Hawaii's population.

It's no wonder people are feeling scared now. It's no wonder we are buying less, saving pennies, wondering which shoe will drop first. Not much is being said yet about the people who have lost their jobs and the people with reduced hours and reduced incomes, but we all know someone and if we think about it we know it could be us.

The scarier thing is that there is every likelihood that it will be some of us. This is the trap we are caught in, the high cost of housing has us working too many hours, too many days of the year and too many of us live too many miles from town to have a good neighborhood where our children can grow. As tourism drops in an accelerating rate fewer and fewer of us are going to retain our jobs. Fewer families will have 2-3 salaries to pay the rent or the mortgage. We can expect more homes to foreclose, more rentals to go empty, more banks to be impacted, more people to live in overcrowded homes and rooms, more shelters to be built, more people to live in situations they never imagined as they become homeless.

Here in Hawaii we have a chance to do something about preventing homelessness if we choose. Preventing homelessness is always the better choice. Supporting people to pay what they can and work off the rest has dignity. Standing on the street in a soup kitchen or sleeping in a park or in the weeds does not. **Shelter in Place** is the way to create continuity, to reduce the need for services, to keep people well and children in school.

Many households will continue to have a wage earner working, but working fewer hours or getting a lower salary. Or one parent will continue to work while the other is searching to get back in the workforce. We can help those people to not become homeless. We can help them get through the roughest times by helping them **Shelter In Place**. It is really very simple: many of them will need a subsidy to help pay part of their housing costs while they look for work, cut their expenses, look for ways to restructure their mortgages or for cheaper places to live.

There are non-profit agencies, such as Catholic Charities and Salvation Army that have implemented programs that help families pay rent to prevent eviction or make money for first month's rent available in times of crisis. The state even has a small rent subsidy program. It is very conceivable that the lessons learned from managing these programs could be utilized to implement a **Shelter In Place Program**.

The difference would be that under the **Shelter In Place Program** an individual or a family could apply for a loan or a grant to help them pay the difference between their income and what they need to pay rent or mortgage. The funds they receive could be a grant as many other programs like FEMA are, or they could be a loan to be repaid at low or no interest or they could be repaid by doing some form of community service. For example: they might help repair and repaint public housing units or volunteer with Habitat for Humanity or volunteer in an after school program or other social service.

This program is truly a win win solution. It would save many families from homelessness and landlords from foreclosure. It would save the state money that would otherwise be needed for shelters, social services, health care and all the other services that are attenuated with homelessness. People who are able to pay for their housing but due to loss of part of their work need a hand to make the full payment would be afforded the dignity of remaining in their own home and would be able to repay the community that has supported them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this vision.

Kathleen Hasegawa, Executive Director, Hawaii Habitat for Humanity, 808-538-7676

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
REGARDING  
SUPPORT OF SB 1679, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009  
1:15 pm, Room 016

Chairman Chun-Oakland, Chairman Ige, and Members of the Committees on Health and Human Services:

My name is Dr. Jon Matsuoka and I am the Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying today in support of SB 1679, which seeks to appropriate funds from the emergency budget and reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for education, human services, and health.

As stated in section one of SB 1679, these are difficult times for our state, our nation, and the world in general. Many people will be affected by the economic downturn in the United States, but none more drastically than the most vulnerable segments of our society. And the results of this will have a rippling effect throughout the community, unless we are able to maintain safety nets in the form of adequate levels of health and human service programs.

Who among us could deny that we are experiencing an emergency situation that demands radical methods of intervention? I strongly concur with the proponents of this bill who maintain that the use of the emergency and budget reserve fund to save essential health and human service programs is an appropriate use of those funds and that there has never been a time recently where it has been more needed.

The economic situation in our state and nation may, and hopefully will be, temporary. But if we allow essential services to terminate now, we may never see many of them again. Drastic reductions in funding, especially to the smaller non-profit organizations and programs, are basically the same as taking funding away completely because there is no way that they will be able to make up the difference necessary to maintain their operation.

Now is the time for the legislature to take strong measures to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of our entire community. I therefore urge you to support SB 1679 and thank you for considering my comments.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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**. I can be reached at 808-956-7294 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Thompson

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 worked with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for the past 7 years. Throughout this time I have been able to watch as individuals learn new skills and make new friends. By working with people with disabilities, I have learned what it means to be truly compassionate, caring, and human. Many of the participants have dreams and goals to be more independent but they need support in order to reach these goals. In a perfect world a community would get together and help to support people with disabilities. As we all know this is not a perfect world, and there are not many people who have the resources to provide unpaid support to individuals with disabilities. The DD/MR Waiver allows individuals with disabilities to be supported and learn skills so they can be active members in their communities. It allows families to work, and to have peace of mind knowing that their loved ones are being cared for. Without these services many people have nowhere else to turn. The impact on families can be physically, mentally and emotionally damaging and for individuals with disabilities it is the difference between living a life and just surviving. Doesn't everyone deserve to be safe, healthy and have a chance to be an active member in their 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**. I can be reached at 255-8062, for any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Mekuria

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 work with people with disabilities and I see first hand that without these services they are deeply impacted. Coming to the program gives them a chance to experience and learn new things, which they would not otherwise be able to. I don't think any parent would ask to have a child with a disability, and having the funds to give your child the same opportunities that a child without a disability has is imperative. That's why this is so important to the participants and the families. It affects the families that can't go to work because they now have to be at home with their child, it affects the child who wants so badly to have the skills to one day be independent. So please consider passing the bill to release the appropriations to continue to provide services to 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 [sheldonD@eastersealshawaii.org](mailto:sheldonD@eastersealshawaii.org), for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Dobson

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 staff who works with young adults with developmental disabilities at an Adult Day Health Program in Honolulu. Due to the current budget reductions, many of our participants lost their services. Some of them cannot attend the program and have to stay home by themselves. We, as staff, teach our participants life skills so they can be independent in their communities. They work hard to learn a variety of these skills everyday. I would like to continue to provide the consistency necessary and the same quality of services to those in need of them.

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 [megumi@eastersealshawaii.org](mailto:megumi@eastersealshawaii.org) any further questions.

Sincerely,

Megumi Nontani

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 an employee of Easter Seals Hawai'i for nearly 10 years and have had the opportunity to work with 50+ adults with Developmental Disabilities. I see how important and meaningful these services are for the people we serve and because of these services, people do not need to stay home and are able to have, and lead, real lives. People are able to get jobs, be active members of their communities, and make lasting and real friendships.

Since the State's recent budget reduction I have seen many changes to participant's services. Some have shown an increase in needs for supports while others are more withdrawn from offered activities and are struggling with the reduction in service days or hours. Other people at our program are concerned because they are missing out on much needed social skills opportunities that support them to build real and meaningful relationships with others.

I also have family members with disabilities who benefit from services. I know how vital services through the DD/MR Waiver are. I urge you to please pass 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**. I can be reached at (808) 681-0747, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Sonya J. Kelii

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 work with individuals with developmental disabilities. For the past 8 years I have seen the positive outcomes of these individuals receiving personal assistance/habilitation from direct service workers through DD/MR Medicaid Waiver programs. With the recent budget cut, these individuals, families, and direct service workers were affected. Individuals that relied on direct service workers to support them in their daily living and independent living skills are isolated from the community. Their health and safety are also put at risk due to the fact that those who need a higher level of care has no one to support that area of their life.***

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 678-3754, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kwae Ann Yap-Fukunaga

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 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 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) 282-7042, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lori Lutu

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 an employee of Easter Seals Hawai'i for several years and have had the opportunity to work with many adults with Developmental Disabilities. I see how important and meaningful these services are for the people we serve and because of these services, people do not need to stay home and are able to have, and lead, real lives. People are able to get jobs, be active members of their communities, and make lasting and real friendships.

Since the State's recent budget reduction I have seen many changes to participant's services. Some have shown an increase in needs for supports while others are more withdrawn from offered activities and are struggling with the reduction in service days or hours. Other people at our program are concerned because they are missing out on much needed social skills opportunities that support them to build real and meaningful relationships with others. This in turn leads to health and safety concerns for the people we support. Please pass this bill.

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) 681-0747, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kane

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Y. Ige  
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- RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE  
FUND

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 1:15pm (Joint Committee on Health and Human  
Services & Housing), Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ige & Members of the Joint Committees on Human Services  
and Health:

I am submitting testimony in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** OF SB 1679. 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 her 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.***

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 572-3023, for any further questions.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Perreira