

SB2659

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.
Report Title: Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund; Appropriation
Description: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain funding levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HMS/HTH, WAM
Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, FUKUNAGA, IHARA, Dela Cruz, Espero, Ige, Kahele, Kim, Taniguchi



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

Tom Mick
Policy and Planning Department Head, Judiciary

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Purpose: Appropriates moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund to maintain levels of programs for public health, safety, welfare, and education.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports Section 42 of Senate Bill No. 2659, which appropriates funds from the State Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the Judiciary for domestic violence services. Legislative actions in 2009 reduced the Judiciary's FY 2010 budget base by \$11.5 million (7.6% from FY 2009 to FY 2010) and eliminated 79 positions or 4% of the Judiciary's permanent workforce. Further cuts were made to Judiciary's budget base in the following two fiscal years so its budget is now at less than \$133 million, or a more than 13% reduction since FY 2009. This necessitated significant cuts in funding for domestic violence services by the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Circuits, as well as the various treatment courts. Some programs were eliminated while others were significantly reduced. These cuts led to fewer services being available and fewer clients served, and longer waits to access services. They also contributed to the loss of 10 or more staff in direct service to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, resulting in a decrease in parenting groups, crisis intervention services, victim support, and



Senate Bill No. 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Senate Committees on Human Services and Health
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
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batterers treatment; a reduction in temporary restraining order (TRO) clients served at various sites, and victim services delivered; a significant reduction in safety planning services and other services to children exposed to domestic violence; an increase in wait time for batterers trying to enter treatment and counseling services, which means more untreated batterers residing in communities, decreasing the safety of their victims and the community in general; a decrease in the number of sites available to obtain services for batterers, victims, or children – on the Neighbor Islands this often means that services are unavailable unless the person seeking services has access to a car and is able to drive many miles; increases in requirements and fees for fee-for-services, making programs unavailable to those who cannot pay; a decrease in supervised visitations; a reduction in service provider staff work hours; and waitlists for almost all services, including waitlists for TRO support and filings. Court statistics show that from FY 2008 to FY 2011, domestic abuse protective order filings increased by more than 16%, even as the availability and extent of domestic violence services were decreasing. While some relief occurred with the passage of Act 191, SLH 2010, which provided \$1 million from the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund to the Judiciary for domestic violence services, these funds will expire at the end of FY 2012 and the Judiciary does not have any funds available to absorb this loss and thereby continue these services. The proposed appropriation would enable us to continue such services at the present level, assuming no other cuts are made to the Judiciary budget.

The Judiciary takes no position on Sections 43 through 48 of Senate Bill No. 2659 which appropriates funds from the State Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the Judiciary to the following organizations: Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to provide pro bono legal services for indigent persons, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii to provide general civil legal services, Hawaii Family Law Clinic to provide services to obtain TROs, Catholic Charities Hawaii to provide intra-familial sexual assault services, Children's Alliance of Hawaii to provide child sex assault services, and Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu for operation of the Weed & Seed Program (**Note: With regard to the Weed and Seed Program (Section 48), Act 191, SLH 2010 appropriated the funding for it more appropriately to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.**) The identified funding would be helpful to these programs, which provide valuable services to Hawaii's citizens and have suffered along with many other organizations as a result of the economic situation in Hawaii. However, the Judiciary's concern is to ensure that because the funding amounts identified constitute an addition to the original Judiciary budget request contained in Senate Bill No. 2054, their addition does not come with a corresponding reduction to any items already included in our base budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2659.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WESLEY LUM, PhD, MPH
DIRECTOR

LORETTA FUDDY, ACSW, MPH
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Committee on Human Services

Committee on Health

SB2659, RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Tuesday, January 31, 2012; Conference Room 016

1:00 p.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure
2 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within our Supplemental Budget
3 Request.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** EOA would be the expending agency for several programs serving Hawaii's
5 older adults and their families using appropriations from the Emergency and Budget Reserve
6 Fund, including:
- 7 1. The Kupuna Care program (Section 5);
 - 8 2. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (Section 6);
 - 9 3. The Healthy Aging Partnership Program (Section 11); and
 - 10 4. Meals for the elderly through the Kupuna Care program (Section 15).
- 11 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the development of the Aging and Disability
12 Resource Centers (ADRC) is a priority of the Abercrombie Administration, and we prefer the
13 passage of SB2779, which is part of the Administration's Package, that creates ADRCs in each

1 county to streamline access to long-term supports and services for older adults, persons with
2 disabilities, and family caregivers.

3 Regarding the funding of the Kupuna Care Program, Healthy Aging Partnership Program,
4 and meals for the elderly through the Kupuna Care Program, we support the concept of these
5 initiatives as they are consistent with EOA's goals and objectives. Should this bill be enacted into
6 law and funds released, EOA will encumber and expend these funds in a timely manner. Thank
7 you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Human Services and
Health

January 31, 2012 at 1:00pm

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

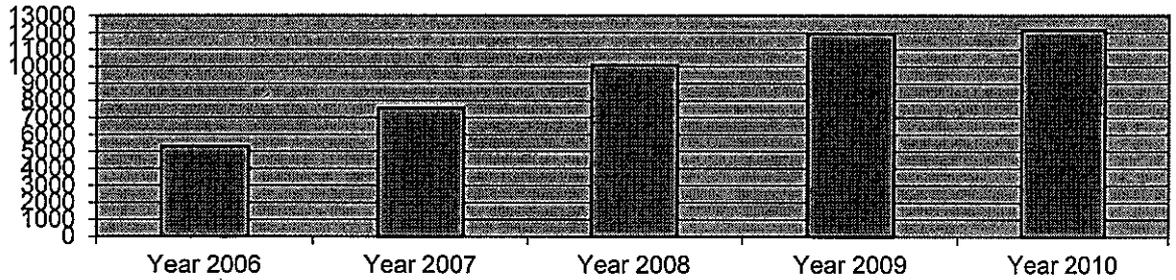
SB 2659 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Chairs Chun Oakland and Green and Vice Chairs Ihara and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports Senate Bill 2659 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. The bill includes a line item request to support the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center via funds that will be expended by the Department of Human Services.

With support from the Hawai'i Department of Human Services from 2002-2010, the "Rainy Day fund" in 2011, and the County of Maui, we have developed the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center (MOHC). The mission of the MOHC is to provide educational training while servicing the needy with oral care. The MOHC provides the clinical education site for the Dental Assisting (DA) Certificate and the Dental Hygiene (DH) Associate Degree Programs. In addition, it services as the primary access to dental care for Medicaid eligible and uninsured dental patients on Maui. Currently, UH Maui College MOHC has 2 full time staff dentists, and 2 dentists enrolled in the residence program from Lutheran Medical Center in New York. The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredits all the DA, DH, and Dental Residency programs. The table below illustrates the growth in the number of patient visits. There are between 800-1,000 patient visits per month at the Maui Oral Health Center.

Maui Oral Health Center Patient Visits



In 2011, UHMC was recognized by the Hawai'i Dental Association for collaborative activities to enhance dental care on Maui and in Hawai'i. It is important to note that without access to dental care, patients with acute dental problems seek care in the Maui Memorial Medical Center Emergency room, the most expensive care possible. The table below illustrates DHS data that shows the cost of flying dental patients to O'ahu for care. The low number of patients that flew to O'ahu from Maui is due to access on Maui at MOHC.

Neighbor Island patients to Oahu 7/1/09-6/30/10

	# Children	\$ Children	# Adult	\$ Adult	TOTAL #	TOTAL \$
Hilo	1752	\$517,892.60	7	\$ 1,148.20	1759	\$519,040.80
Kona	382	\$120,716.59	4	\$ 1,259.30	386	\$121,975.89
Maui	187	\$ 57,859.72	27	\$ 5,174.35	214	\$ 63,034.07
Lana'i	8	\$ 2,496.00	2	\$ 669.00	10	\$ 3,165.00
Kaua'i	371	\$112,440.17	86	\$15,330.54	457	\$127,770.71
Moloka'i	106	\$ 46,741.10	8	\$ 2,466.60	114	\$ 49,207.70
TOTAL	2806	\$858,146.18	134	\$26,047.99	2940	\$884,194.17

The MOHC provides critical oral care to a segment of our community that is needy and underserved, reduces a costly statewide concern and provides meaningful clinical educational experiences for our students.



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Committee on Human Services Committee on Health Testimony in Support of S.B.2659 Relating to The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

**Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Green and Members of the Committees:

I am Louis Erteschik, Acting Executive Director at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate monies from the emergency and budget reserve fund to a number of entities, including state departments and several non-profit agencies, to maintain levels of support for the public health, safety and welfare.

We support the bill and especially appreciate the inclusion of a specific line item to the Hawaii Disability Rights Center at Section 50. The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is the state designated protection and advocacy system. We have been designated by the Governor of Hawaii in Executive Orders No. 77-3, 82-4, 89-2 and 94-06 to provide advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, in accordance with various federal laws. See 42 U.S.C. § 15001, 42 U.S.C. § 10801, and 29 U.S.C. § 732. Hawaii law, at Section 333F -8.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, expressly recognizes the obligation of the state to provide advocacy services to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in order to receive federal funds. The federal statutes require, as a condition of funding services provided by a number of state agencies, that a protection and advocacy agency be established by the State.

In 1977, state funding for our agency represented approximately 75% of the agency's revenue and federal funding represented the rest. By 1995, the federal share had grown to approximately 70% and the state's share had declined to 30%. The reduction of the State's share reflected an increase in the number of federal programs and was not



**HAWAII'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
HAWAII'S CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



questioned, despite the fact that under federal law, federal funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant the state's efforts. In requesting federal funding for various state projects, every Governor has provided assurances to the federal government that federal funds distributed to HDRC do not supplant funds that are available from state and local sources.

From 2004 until 2010, the state gave HDRC at least \$165,505 each year under a purchase of services contract with the Office of Community Services of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. In July 2010, OCS informed us that the contract would not be renewed because the Hawaii Legislature had reduced funds for OCS programs by \$700,000. OCS subsequently terminated funding for four programs totaling \$699,000. To our understanding, OCS also administratively restricted their budget by an amount significantly greater than the \$700,000 cut by the Legislature, thereby reducing HDRC's funding to zero. While there may have been no intent on the part of the legislature to end State funding for protection and advocacy services, that is what has happened.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is a small, efficient agency that serves thousands of individuals each year with legal issues surrounding their various disabilities. We effectively utilize our resources and keep our administrative costs to a minimum. However, federal funding has either plateaued or been slightly reduced over the past several years while expenses have continued to increase. Fundraising opportunities for a legal services corporation like ours are very limited, and they would force us to compete with other legal services providers for the same donors. Thus, without the state funds we had received for thirty-four years, we have been forced to substantially reduce our activities, cut staffing, and provide fewer services to the most needy, vulnerable population in our state at a time when their needs are increasing.

While we had hoped that the new administration would restore our funding in the base budget for OCS, that has apparently not occurred so far. Therefore, an appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund would seem to be an appropriate mechanism to continue the vital functions we perform until a more stable, permanent source of state funding can be arranged.

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

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Human Services Committee

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Health Committee

From: Laura Robertson Smith, President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: January 30, 2012

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 2659 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Funds**

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (Goodwill) is among the largest human service non-profit organizations in Hawaii. Our mission is to help people find and succeed in employment. With a Statewide footprint, and offices on Oahu, Maui, Hilo, Kona and Kauai, last year Goodwill served over 15,000 people and placed 1,800 into jobs in our community.

Goodwill submits this testimony in support of SB 2659 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Funds.

Two years ago, when the legislature appropriated funds to Health and Human Services from the "Rainy Day Fund", these monies assisted critical safety net programs within our community to continue to operate and provide much needed services to those who are vulnerable. These monies will lapse on June 30, 2012. If they are not continued, these social service programs who have already dealt with severe budget cutbacks will be faced to do so once again, and those people who most critically need our services will be affected.

While in the past Goodwill has not received these emergency appropriation funds, we testify in support in order to strengthen a weakened social service infrastructure within our State.

Maintained funding for Hawaii's Social Service Providers is necessary to help low-income economically vulnerable residents of Hawaii to continue to survive this economic downturn.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

DATE of Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 (1:00 p.m., Rm. 016)

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT of SB 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, with Recommendations**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health, my name is Stella Wong and I am the Vice President of Programs at Catholic Charities Hawai'i. I am testifying in support of **SB 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i fully supports SB 2659, with one recommendation.

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

Emergency and Budget Reserve funding was approved by the 2010 Legislature and released by Governor Abercrombie to ensure that the safety net of services would be able to serve the growing numbers of people at risk. As of June 30, 2012, these services are at risk of significant reduction or elimination. The negative impact to our community is tremendous.

The economic situation in our state continues to struggle – we continue to have more people coming to our doors needing food, shelter, jobs and other basics of life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to have to turn away families with young children, frail elders and individuals with disabilities.

The legislature had the foresight to set up the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund as a safety net for social services. The safety net for all social services that affect our most vulnerable in the state still remains thin and we must continue to do what we can to maintain services for at risk populations in the community.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Testimony in Support of SB 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund
Committees on Human Services and Health
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 (1:00 p.m., Rm. 016)
Page 2 of 2

I'm sure I don't have to say it but **"It is still Raining."** Please help maintain programs to protect the most vulnerable in this State. I strongly urge your committee to pass SB 2659, with the following recommendation to include funding for two senior centers:

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the emergency and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of **\$285,000** or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to:

- (1) **Catholic Charities Hawai'i for Lanakila multi-purpose senior center, \$175,000**
- (2) **Moiliili Community Center \$50,000**
- (3) **Waikiki Community Center \$60,000.**

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4888 or swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

The Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m., Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports Senate Bill 2659.**

Each of the items identified for funding in SB 2659 is important to the health and well-being of Hawai'i. Each contributes substantially to preventing far worse calamities and costs than we currently experience.

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association specifically supports the following sections of SB 2659:

- Section 24, which appropriates funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative, a program that served 1,667 low income immigrants in 2010. (\$550,000).
- Section 28, which funds adult dental care.
- Sections 30, 31, and 32, which would restore funding for outstationed eligibility workers at community health centers, and pay for outreach in high risk communities to ensure that vulnerable individuals are linked to public benefits for which they are eligible. These workers find the uninsured who are eligible for Med-QUEST and other programs and assist them to submit complete applications so they can get needed health care. Given the drastic cuts in MQD staffing, this community-based service is needed more than ever.
- Section 55, which pays for health care for the uninsured.

Please note that none of the one-time rainy day appropriations we support should supplant on-going general and special funds directed to Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for considering the needs of the growing number of uninsured residents of Hawai'i, as well as many other people who are more vulnerable than ever during this period of economic recovery.

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Jan 31, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Human Services Committee; and Dr. Josh Green, Chair, health Committee.

Re: SB 2659

STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Friends:

Mental Health America of Hawaii strongly supports SB2659 that preserves funding to health and human services agencies from the Rainy Day Fund. Many of these organizations -- domestic violence, substance abuse, early intervention, child abuse prevention, public safety, mental health, and numerous other programs constituting our "safety net" are essential to protecting Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Regards,

Marya Grambs,
Executive Director



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII

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George J. Zweibel, Esq.
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M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB2659 - RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE

January 31, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in support of SB2659 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve.

In November 2007, the Access to Justice Hui released a report that included, “The 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People in Hawai‘i.” This Assessment found that one out of every five low- and moderate-income Hawai‘i residents were unable to receive needed legal assistance. The Assessment also found the capacity of legal services providers was limited to helping only one in three Hawai‘i residents who needed assistance. The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (Legal Aid) is the only legal service provider with offices on every island in the state, and in 2011 provided legal assistance to over 10,000 Hawai‘i residents in the areas of consumer fraud, public assistance, family law, the prevention of homelessness, employment, protection from domestic violence.

While the legislature passed significant legislation last year to increase funding for legal services through an increase in the indigent legal assistance surcharge, full benefit from this legislation will not occur until FY16, leaving a gap in funding for the organization. The end of Stimulus funding, reductions by Congress to LSC funding, and the lowest federal funds interest rates which affect funding from Interest on Lawyer Trust Account, have compounded the financial need for Legal Aid. Realizing the seriousness of this potential crisis, Legal Aid is currently taking steps to reassess its service delivery and is engaging in a strategic planning effort to determine the level of services that can be provided to the community with limited funding. Failure to receive this funding will result in the severe reduction of services, possible office closures, and staff layoffs. It will also mean that members of the client who call Legal Aid for assistance will not be helped.

We understand that all programs are having a difficult time right now, yet our services are critical to keeping a roof over someone’s head, a child with her mother who was beaten by her father, a person who’s lost their job get access to public assistance, and a family facing foreclosure assistance in renegotiating a loan to stay in their home. In light of all of these considerations, we ask for an allocation of \$800,000 for the next fiscal year to allow us to continue to provide some of the services that we have over the years and ensure that critical immigration legal services also continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director



www.legalaidhawaii.org
A UNITED WAY AGENCY



The Children's Alliance
OF HAWAII, INC.

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January 30, 2012

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on
Human Services

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Senate Committee on Health

Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and
Health

FROM: Joan Naguwa, President & Executive Director
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. 

SUBJ: **Testimony in Support of SB2659, Relating to the Emergency
and Budget Reserve Fund**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green and Members of the Committee on
Human Services and Health:

My name is Joan Naguwa, President & Executive Director of The Children's
Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. We are in support of SB 2659, Relating to the
Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

The mission of The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc. (CAH) is to provide care and support for sexually abused children, offering hope for the future. Each year we serve over 500 sexually abused children and youth and their families. CAH is an integral part of the statewide system of services for sexually abused children and youth. Our programs include: 1) Enhancements – providing needed goods and services for child victims, child witnesses and their siblings, residing in foster care or at home on Oahu and Kauai that enhance their ability to regain a sense of normalcy and increase self-esteem. Special projects are also coordinated to provide holiday gifts and school supplies contributed by the community; 2) HEART (Healing Emotions with Art and Recreation Together) – a 6 month, experiential program for sexually abused children and adolescents to increase their self esteem and decrease feelings of isolation; 3) Ho`omaka – enabling child victims to strengthen their resiliency by working with adult mentors and developing skills in goal-setting, problem-solving, healthy relationship-building; and 4) Strengthening Parents –parent support groups to them manage their own emotions about sexual abuse to their children and increasing their parenting skills. Our programs are not a substitute for primary therapy, but rather are unique adjunct services to individual and/or traditional group therapy, based on evidence-based best practices in trauma-based therapy, resiliency theory and positive youth development.



The need for access to services for sexually abused children is significant as over 300 reported cases are handled by the Dept. of Human Services each year. To add to this figure, national statistics demonstrate that there are hundreds more cases of child sexual abuse that are unreported each year. If left untreated, victims of child sexual abuse often experience serious social problems, such as substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness, poor academic achievement, and teen pregnancy. Research also states that, on any given day, there are approximately 1,800 homeless, runaway or homeless-sheltered youth in Hawaii. An estimated one-third of homeless children in Hawaii have been sexually abused or at-risk for sexual abuse. Sexually abused youth are also four (4) times more likely to be arrested for truancy or crimes, such as shoplifting, than non-abused youth.

These facts translate to thousands of dollars in cost to the State of Hawaii and the community. CAH provides needed adjunct long term services to help sexually abused children avoid these risks through our programs and services.

The appropriation for CAH's services listed in SB 2659 is critically needed to continue to meet the needs of these vulnerable children and to assist them in becoming productive citizens of Hawaii. Without this appropriation, CAH will have to significantly reduce its services to these children.

We urge your support of SB 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Senate Committees on Health, Human Services, and Ways & Means

FROM: Jed Gaines, President, Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 531-1985

RE: Senate Bill 2659

Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

HEARING: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 PM,

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committees:

As President of Read Aloud America, Inc., I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2659.

Read Aloud America is a Hawaii program that has been providing services to low income families and Title I public schools in Hawaii for more than fourteen years, and has served the needs of more than a quarter of a million parents and children here.

By strengthening students' at-home support system while bridging the gap between school and the home, our Read Aloud Program (RAP) can help prevent students from making negative academic and social choices now and later in life.

The simplicity of this concept actually fulfills a critical need. Research shows that children who attend high-quality programs after school hours are more likely to make better grades and behave better in school, spend less time watching television, make better social choices growing up and have lower incidences of drug use, gang involvement, and teenage pregnancy (U.S. Departments of Education and Justice 2000).

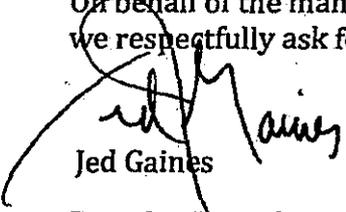
Specific results from RAP show that families watch less television, use less electronic media, and spend more time together; parents are more involved in their children's learning; and students have an increased interest in reading and a more positive attitude toward school.

Reading is the keystone of education. Students who are competent and engaged readers do well in all areas of the curriculum. Students who are not competent readers struggle in the primary grades, begin a "slide out" around third grade, lose ground in all academic areas as they advance through the grades, and eventually lose interest in school, often falling prey to the perceived security of gangs and drugs. Students who don't achieve success in school are more likely to drop out, not find employment as adults, and wind up on welfare rolls, drug rehabilitation programs, or jail. 70- 82% of prison inmates are school dropouts (Trelease 2009).

To that end, Read Aloud America offers tools for school communities to not only strengthen the connection between school and the home, but also to provide a safe and fun family activity during after-school hours. RAP supports education by helping parents learn how to incorporate educational - and fun - activities into the home. It promotes making healthy choices, such as reducing dependence on electronic media, engaging in more quality family time, and creating a reading-friendly home environment. As a result, students have a greater possibility for success in school - and in life.

In Hawaii where more than 93% of all parents work while trying to raise healthy families, providing a low cost but very effective program to help them create firm communication skills is vital. That it also often starts a lifelong love affair with reading and learning more about the world around us, is a wonderful bonus.

On behalf of the many schools, and the thousands of parents and children we serve, we respectfully ask for your kokua in supporting Senate Bill 2659.



Jed Gaines

Founder/President

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2659 – Read Aloud America

Submitted by Joanne Laird, Program Director, Read Aloud America

January 30, 2012

Our first Read Aloud America program on Maui at Kihei School this semester drew 910 students, parents, teachers and volunteers on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Here are some comments from parents attending the program that evening:

I love your TTTT (Turn Off Technology Through Thursday) program because not only that we have more time together, but as a single mother of four, I will be able to save on my electric bills for keeping my kids off electronics every evening. I attended RAP at Kihei School three years ago and I enjoy bringing my kids and encouraging my older kids to help as volunteers.

Reinalyn Larioma

Today's session is so necessary for EVERY school! It is fun, educational, but most importantly stresses the importance of reading daily. I think that TTTT is such a great idea! My family will begin TTTT immediately! Bonding as parents/children is so important. Children who grow up knowing they are loved by their parents are much less prone to being a criminal, vagrant, or use drugs/alcohol – I know this from experience! My daughter and I read a book each day – I think Read Aloud is GREAT!

Judy Whatley

You are right – I feel so good now because I feel that big changes will take place in our family – good changes. You helped us to understand what we need to do to become a family again. Save time, save money and I'll bet this will help my children in school. Now we will go to the public library – you helped me remember this is free.

Rowena Acosta



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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Alex Santiago

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services, and Senator Josh Green, Chair Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Alex Santiago, Executive Director
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly and Disabled)

HEARING DATE: January 31, 2012

RE: Support of SB 2659, Relating to the Emergency and Budget and Reserve Fund

Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Green, and members of the Health and Human Services Committees,

I am Alex Santiago, Executive Director of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawai'i. **PHOCUSED supports the intent of SB 2659, relating to the use of Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.**

PHOCUSED believes the original intent of establishing the Emergency Budget Reserve Fund, also known as the "rainy day" fund, was to shore up the health and human services needs of our society during an extreme economic downturn.

We appreciate your efforts over the past two years to keep some of our essential Social Services programs alive, using the available funds from this account. It is our understanding that there will be an effort this year to replenish these funds. We would like to strongly encourage you to consider using those funds to again shore up essential Social Service programs.

Only by keeping these programs alive will we be able to continue to have the safety net services we have worked so hard to create over the past few decades. Your leadership in this area is admirable. We look forward to working with you as we go through on of the most devastating economic storms we have ever faced.

Please let us know how we can be of service as you move these measures forward.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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Aloha United Way

Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 016

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

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on every island and touching the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna each year. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2659.

The November 2011 news about \$5.8 million in cuts to child welfare human services programs makes it clear that the "Rainy Day" continues in Hawaii. The Legislature is to be congratulated and thanked for passing the Rainy Day Fund bill two sessions ago and passing SB 1288 last session to extend the expenditure of the funds through 6/30/12. The Governor deserves our gratitude for his announcement of the release of the funds. However, these funds were one-time only appropriations that end by June 30, 2012 and without the appropriation of additional funds, this will amount to another cut to human services programs, organizations, and most important the reduction of services to people in need of child abuse prevention and treatment services, domestic violence services, Kupuna care, mental health services, sexual assault services, just to name a few.

In particular this bill provides support for critical services related to child abuse and domestic violence as well as Kupuna Care for our seniors. We must do all we can to prevent child abuse and Rainy Day funds in this bill already helped save the Healthy Start program from total elimination. It is essential so that we reach families before there is ever a report of child abuse rather than after the fact. However, this bill also supports important programs that treat children who have been physically/sexually abused. Women and their children need emergency shelters when they are escaping from domestic violence in their homes, and we need to restore funding so we can provide more than just custodial care, which is all we can provide at the current funding levels. This bill also restores domestic violence intervention services that were cut 30% on Oahu and 40% on the Big Island. Where we can intervene with perpetrators and get them to stop the violence and take responsibility for dealing with their anger in non-abusive ways, we sometimes can preserve a family. When the perpetrators do not change and continue their violence, we need to help victims to leave the abusive relationships and to heal themselves as well as their children. Domestic violence intervention services can help women and children in this way.

For our Kupuna there are waiting lists for services that could prevent institutional care for elders and allow them to achieve a better quality of life at lower cost to the state. That is why we continue to advocate for increased funding for Kupuna Care that is included in this bill.

We certainly are hopeful that our economy continues to improve and that state general funds will eventually be able to support some of these critical services. We can then build back the Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

With Aloha,

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

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland
Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.
Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016
Testimony submitted by: Terry Johnson,
Director of Human Resources, Child & Family Service

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. I am Terry Johnson, Director of Human Resources at Child & Family Service. We are a comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on all islands. We touch the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from children to elders every year. **I am testifying in strong support of SB 2659.**

The "Rainy Day" continues in Hawaii as evidenced by the November 2011 news about \$5.8 million in cuts to child welfare human services programs. I congratulate the legislature for passing the Rainy Day Fund bill two sessions ago and passing SB 1288 last session to extend the expenditure of the funds through 6/30/12. I applaud the governor for his announcement of the release of the funds. However, these funds were **one-time only** appropriations that end by June 30, 2012 and without the appropriation of additional funds, **this will amount to another cut** to human services programs, and most important the reduction of services to people in need of child abuse prevention and treatment services, domestic violence services, elder care, mental health services, and sexual assault services, just to name a few.

In particular this bill provides support for critical services related to child abuse and domestic violence as well as **Kupuna Care** for our seniors. We must do all we can to prevent child abuse and Rainy Day funds in this bill already helped save the **Healthy Start** program from total elimination. It is essential so that we reach families before there is ever a report of child abuse rather than after the fact. However, this bill also supports important programs that treat children who have been physically/sexually abused. **Women and their children need emergency shelters** when they are escaping from domestic violence in their homes, and we need to restore funding so we can provide more than just custodial care, which is all we can provide at the current funding levels. This bill also restores domestic violence intervention services that were cut 30% on Oahu and 40% on the Big Island. Where we can intervene with perpetrators and get them to stop the violence and take responsibility for dealing with their anger in non-abusive ways, we sometimes can preserve a family. When the perpetrators do not change and continue their violence, we need to help victims to leave the abusive relationships and to heal themselves as well as their children. Domestic violence intervention services can help women and children in this way.

For our Senior Citizens, there are waiting lists for services that could prevent institutional care for elders and allow them to achieve a better quality of life at lower cost to the state. That is why we continue to advocate for increased funding for Kupuna Care that is included in this bill.

We certainly are hopeful that our economy continues to improve and that state general funds will eventually be able to support some of these critical services. We can then build back the Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

Warm regards,

Terry Johnson, MS
Director of Human Resources
Child & Family Service

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January 30, 2012

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Re: Testimony on SB 2659, Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Aloha kakou,

I applaud Senators Chun Oakland, Baker, Fukunaga, Ihara, Dela Cruz, Espero, Ige, Kahele, Kim, and Taniguchi for their foresight and action to maintain the safety net funding for basic critical services in health and human services.

I strongly support SB2659 and urge your support as well. Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha a hui hou e malama pono,

Diane Reece
Director of Properties

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Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Testimony submitted by: Joyce Spinden
Program Director, Child & Family Service

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. I am Joyce Spinden, Program Director of Child & Family Service. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2659.

The Legislature is to be congratulated and thanked for passing the Rainy Day Fund bill two sessions ago and passing SB 1288 last session to extend the expenditure of the funds through 6/30/12. I appreciate that the Governor released these funds. However, these funds were one-time only appropriations that end by June 30, 2012 and without the appropriation of additional funds, this will amount to another cut to human services programs, organizations, and most important the reduction of services to people in need of child abuse prevention and treatment services, domestic violence services, Kupuna care, mental health services, sexual assault services, just to name a few.

My work with CFS is to provide direct service to those children, parents, grandparents and resource families who are involved in domestic and sexual violence and child related neglect and abuse. They are in desperate need of protection, education, support, and on-going resources. It requires funding to provide these services and to preserve these families. The community does not benefit either to give less than what is needed for the children and their families !

It is essential to pass this bill so that we reach families before there is ever a report of child abuse rather than after the fact. This bill supports important programs that treat children who have been physically/sexually abused. The bill restores domestic violence intervention services that were cut.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Joyce Spinden, M.Ed.
Program Director - Kauai
Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services
Voluntary Case Management
Child & Family Service

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Testimony on SB 2659,

EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland
Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.
Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Testimony submitted by: Jodi K. Aiu,
Program Director/Enhanced Healthy Start, Child & Family Service

Aloha e Committee Representatives,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2659.

Mahalo nui for the previous allotment of the Rainy Day appropriations ending June 30, 2012. The renewed appropriation of additional funds are necessary to avoid another cut to human services programs, organizations, and reduction of services to people in need of child abuse prevention and treatment, domestic violence services, Kupuna care, mental health care, sexual assault care, and a multitude of additional services which enable our community to heal, improve, and thrive.

Healthy Start was spared with Rainy Day funds, a preventative program to enhance parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect. Enhanced Healthy Start is an intervention program servicing families in effort to enhance parenting and prevent further child abuse and neglect. These and other social service programs are critical components in our community and the continued availability of these resources are the definition of circumstances surrounding what constitutes a "Rainy Day."

We can build back the Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns. We need to serve our community and those most in need.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

A hui hou,

Jodi K. Aiu, MSW
Program Director, Enhanced Healthy Start
Child & Family Service

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Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Testimony submitted by: Heidemarie Koop, LCSW
Director of Hawaii Island Programs, Child & Family Service

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. I am Heidemarie Koop, Director of Hawaii Island Programs overseeing Big Island Domestic Violence programs for Child and Family Service. Child and Family Service is Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on every island and touching the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna each year. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2659.

During the last two years, the Domestic Violence programs on the Big Island have seen a steady increase in victims who request Domestic Violence services to protect themselves and their children. The number of victims and their children seeking refuge in the Domestic Abuse Shelters in East and West Hawaii have been at a 50% higher rate for the last two years and victims who seek protection through Protective Orders are continuing at a significant higher rate. The passing of the Rainy Day Fund bill two sessions ago and passing SB 1288 last session to extend the expenditure of the funds through 6/30/12 have supported this increase in demand and has provided safety for many families on the Big Island. The November 2011 news about the \$5.8 million in cuts to child welfare human services programs is a big concern and makes it clear that the "Rainy Day" funds are critical for the continuation of vital services. Without "Rainy Day" funds, this will amount to another cut to human services programs, organizations, and most importantly the reduction of services to people in need of child abuse prevention and treatment services, domestic violence services, Kupuna care, mental health services, and sexual assault services, just to name a few.

To protect the most vulnerable in our communities on the Big Island and give them a future that is safe and healthy, this bill provides support for critical services related to child abuse and domestic violence. We must do all we can to prevent child abuse and Rainy Day funds in this bill already helped save the Healthy Start program from total elimination. It is essential so that we reach families before there is a report of child abuse rather than after the fact. However, this bill also supports important programs that treat children who have been physically/sexually abused. Women and their children need emergency shelters when they are escaping from domestic violence in their homes, and we need to restore funding so we can provide more than just custodial care, which is all we can provide at the current funding levels. This bill also restores domestic violence intervention services that were cut 30% on Oahu and 40% on the Big Island. Where we can intervene with perpetrators and get them to stop the violence and take responsibility for dealing with their anger in non-abusive ways, we sometimes can preserve a family. When the perpetrators do not change and continue their violence, we need to help victims to leave the abusive relationships and to heal themselves as well as their children. Domestic violence intervention services can help women and children in this way.

We certainly are hopeful that our economy continues to improve and that state general funds will eventually be able to support some of these critical services. We can then build back the Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

With Aloha

Heidemarie Koop, LCSW
Director of Hawaii Island Programs
Child & Family Service

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Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 016

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

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Hawaii Island

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Mau United Way

Kauai United Way



Aloha United Way

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. My name is Su Yates and I am with Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization that serves every community throughout the state of Hawaii and impacts on the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna each year.

I am testifying in **strong support of SB 2659**. This bill provides critical support for life-saving services related to child abuse, domestic violence and care for our Kupuna. This bill also supports important programs that treat children who have been physically/sexually abused. Can anything else be more important?

In 2011 alone, there were \$5.8 million in cuts to child welfare human services programs. Coupled with the earlier staggering cuts, it is clear the "Rainy Day" continues in Hawaii for our residents most in need of help. Domestic violence intervention services were cut 30% on Oahu and 40% on the Big Island. Meanwhile, request for services went up 37% on The Big Island last year alone.

The Legislature is to be congratulated and thanked for passing the Rainy Day Fund bill two sessions ago and passing SB 1288 last session to extend the expenditure of the funds through 6/30/12. Rainy Day funds in this bill already helped save the Healthy Start program from total elimination.

The Governor deserves our gratitude for his announcement of the release of the funds. However, these funds were one-time only appropriations that end by June 30, 2012. Without the appropriation of additional funds, this will amount to another cut to: human services programs, nonprofit organizations, and services to people in the hour of their greatest need.

When economy continues to improve and state general funds will be able to support some of these critical services, we can then gladly build up the Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

I urge your support of SB 2659.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

With Aloha,

Su Yates
Child & Family Service

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

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Maui United Way

Hawaii Island United Way



Aloha United Way



Child & Family
SERVICE

Private, nonprofit since 1899

Good afternoon, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members,

My name is Gina Sanico. I am a Domestic Violence Specialist with Child & Family Service in the Developing Options to Violence Program. I have worked in Domestic Violence in the last 15-20yrs since college. Today, I am submitting my testimony on Bill SB2659. The children of the men and women of our programs – who abuse and are abused- are of utmost importance to me. My hearts work is really for the children of Hawaii. I do my work with their parents to help break another generation of violence and abuse in homes here in Hawaii. I believe one of the best chances of helping to create a new generation of people in Hawaii is to introduce new ideas and patterns of thinking and believing – ideas unfamiliar to a lot of our local families and unbeknownst to their current lifestyle. The children of Hawaii deserve to live in a generation that sees OPTIONS to violence, and need to find Hope in striving toward a more peaceful approach to life's challenges. Working with our families in Domestic Violence would create more opportunity for Hawaii's children to get a better start in life with a renewed sense of unity with their parents IF programs like ours are kept funded.

Please think of our new generation of children in today's world...give them a fair head start in life. Their parents didn't have the same opportunities. Let me urge you to help my work in caring for those who have been "broken" since they too were very young, and break the generations of hurt and harm among our families.

Thank you for your time & consideration on one of our islands' most important issue - building & lifting up of our families.

Much Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Ms. Gina Sanico

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:59 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: LKENOLIO@CFS-HAWAII.ORG
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: LACIE KENOLIO
Organization: CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE
E-mail: LKENOLIO@CFS-HAWAII.ORG
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am employed for the Domestic Violence program at CFS. I work with the aggressors & victim programs. If funding is cut off to our programs there will be no education and support for either side. The worse situation is if any type of incident were to happen in our great state that would be a travesty. Aloha

Aloha,

I strongly support the passing of SB 2659. Presently I am a Domestic Violence Advocate with Child and Family Service on the Big Island. I have seen firsthand the impact that these funds have had on assisting our social service agencies in providing better services to the people of Hawaii. I hope that you will agree with me and the rest of the supporters out there in passing this bill to better our future.

Malama Pono,

Keshia L. Adolpho
Domestic Violence Specialist II
Child and Family Service

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:04 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: athomas@cfs-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Agnes Thomas
Organization: Child and Family Service ;
E-mail: athomas@cfs-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, I urge your strong support of SB2659. For the keiki and Kupuna of Hawaii, it is the right time for all of you to stand as one and demonstrate your compassion.

Please support SB2659.

Sincerely,
Agnes Thomas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:36 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: pnakamura@cfs-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pearl Nakamura
Organization: Child & Family Service
E-mail: pnakamura@cfs-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2659. I work directly with families of alleged child abuse/neglect and find early intervention makes a positive outcome.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

SB 2659

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Senators and committee members,

My name is Angela Neumann, I am writing to you today as a citizen of the State of Hawaii to testify in support of Senate Bill 2659 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. I would like to thank you for your consideration of this appropriations bill to maintain critical funding levels for public health, safety, welfare, and education programs within our state. I have worked in the capacity as both a substance abuse counselor and mental health case manager with adults in residential and outpatient settings on the island of Maui for the past three years. Due to the economic climate and budget cuts, I have witnessed the forcing of many health and human service programs to reduce the services provided or even be eliminated completely. As a developing social worker and a member of the community I am extremely concerned about the devastating impact that reduced funding levels is placing upon populations at risk.

In my experience working with substance abuse, I have observed an influx in the reported cases of IV drug use. This presents increased risk for infectious disease as well. Therefore, substance abuse prevention programs, HIV/AIDS prevention, case management programs, and needle exchange are necessary to match the commitment to care for the treatment of at risk and infected individuals. I have known many people that have succumbed to addiction, compromised their health, and died as a direct result of addiction and infectious disease. Many families are left broken. Consequently, children are often vulnerable and exposed to abuse, crime, and early exposure to drugs and alcohol. The illness is then perpetuated, wearing at the fabric of the community. I strongly support Senate Bill 2659 Relating to the Emergency and

Budget Reserve Fund as it states within Section 10 to appropriate funding from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for substance abuse treatment. Additionally Section 13 states: to provide funding for grants pursuant to Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for HIV/ AIDS related services and to be distributed towards Life Foundation, Gregory House Programs, and Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project.

Despite advances in modern technology, there is still no known cure for addiction or HIV/ AIDS. Thank you for considering funding public health, safety, welfare, and educational programs that will arrest the increase of life threatening illness in our community.

Sincerely,

Angela Neumann, BA, CSAAS

Maui, Hawaii

Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Chairs: Sen. Josh Green and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara and Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Testimony submitted by: Miriam Goldberg, MSW

I support this bill as it will provide assistance for services relating to child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder care and our community at large. Through the support of the "Rainy Day funds", programs, like Healthy Start; which aid our children through prevention, will not face total elimination. We must do all we can to prevent child abuse by reaching families before it is too late. This bill provides support for critical services related to child abuse and domestic violence. With the passing of SB 2659 we will be better prepared to support these services and ultimately our community at large.

Testimony on SB 2659, EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you support SB 2659. These funds will help support the Kupuna Care services that assist our seniors to remain living at home for as long as possible and safely as possible.

Mahalo.

Janelle Young Ogata

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:35 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: dtoci@cfs-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Denby Toci
Organization:
E-mail: dtoci@cfs-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

Comments:

I am in support of releasing Rainy Day Funds. These funds are so important to families in crisis. An advocate against domestic violence a former victim now survivor, I could not have done it without the help of Child & Family Service who's domestic abuse shelter kept my four children and I safe. Now an employee of Child & Family Service, I am giving back hope to those coming in to keep safe.
Mahalo!

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATE BILL 2659
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Tuesday January 31, 2012

1:00 PM, Conference Room 016

My name is Erin Wagner, I am from Haiku, Maui and I thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2659. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working in several different programs in human service agencies in our islands of Hawaii. I have worked in substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, developmental disabilities services, and housing and case management services for individuals with severe mental illness. Through these experiences, I have come to see how very essential these types of programs are to the basic well-being of Hawaii's individuals, families and communities.

I have witnessed the devastating effects that the recent years' budget cuts for human services programs have had on individuals in need. For example, when the Adult Mental Health Division was forced to slash case management services from 14 hours a month to 3.5 hours per month, I watched helplessly as many clients with the most severe mental health disorders went from stability to crisis because of inadequate support. This resulted in increased utilization of crisis services, police involvement, emergency room visits, and psychiatric hospitalizations, which has certainly ended up costing the state more money in the end.

Substance abuse treatment programs have also suffered from a shrinking budget while the plagues of methamphetamine dependence and prescription drug addiction continue to spread. When addictions like these are untreated or undertreated, I have witnessed how it leads to violent crime, domestic violence, homelessness, and the disintegration of family values and the sense of community which we hold so dear here in Hawaii.

Some of Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens are those with developmental or intellectual disabilities. When services are cut for this population, individuals who may not be able to care for themselves are often deprived of their basic health and safety needs. In addition, without adequate services, individuals with developmental disabilities are in increased danger of being taken advantage of, abused, or neglected.

If the state of Hawaii does not designate the emergency reserve funds for human services, the situation will continue to get more desperate. Many non-profit human services agencies in our small neighbor island communities are already struggling to keep their doors open to serve a growing number of clients in need. Their hard working and dedicated employees must endure pay cuts, reductions in benefits and an overwhelming work load. If the devoted community agencies and employees lose more resources or worse yet, HOPE, who will be left to care for Hawaii's most vulnerable populations?

Please consider this testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2659, which will appropriate emergency funds to programs for mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities, among others. These programs are essential to the public health, safety and welfare as the emergency funds were intended. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Erin Wagner
Phone: (808) 281-2113

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:31 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: laurawarmheart@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Acevedo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laurawarmheart@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Regarding rainy day funds being made available to fund human service agencies: As a licensed mental health counselor I do not receive state funding, however I have seen an increased need in our community for the services that agencies who do receive such funding provide. Please support continued use of the rainy day funds for human services. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:55 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: menhunestamps@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Goldstein
Organization: Individual
E-mail: menhunestamps@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 12:46 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: ketkirchner@att.blackberry.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ketsany Kirchner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ketkirchner@att.blackberry.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
I support SB2659.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 12:17 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: dwatanabe@cfs-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2659 on 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/HTH 1/31/2012 1:00:00 PM SB2659

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dan Watanabe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dwatanabe@cfs-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill helps to continue a basic safety net of services for children, families and elders who are at-risk for abuse and neglect. Without these services society will pay a much larger price in the long term.