

From: Howard Garval [mailto:HGARVAL@cfs-hawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:33 PM
Cc: Patti Bates; Karen Tan; Vivian Yasunaga; Diane Reece; Susan Richard; Angie Doi; Anne Marie Rizzo
Subject: Council Meeting Testimony-Leeward Coast Benefits Program-Testimony in Support with a Proposed Amendment

Aloha!

I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest human services organization founded in 1899.

Child & Family Service is writing in support of the proposed \$1.5 million for the Leeward Coast Benefits Program but with some proposed changes as highlighted in bold in the second paragraph below. As I understand it, this program was ended under the previous administration because certain nonprofits either mismanaged funds or did not do the proper financial reporting. However, Child & Family Service was not one of these organizations, and it seems unfair to eliminate a program that supported services for vulnerable populations on the Leeward Coast because of certain irregularities by a couple of nonprofit organizations.

While we support the intent of the Leeward Coast Benefits Program, we recommend that all grants-in-aid that might be funded under this program if approved by the City Council be reviewed by the same review committee that will be established to review the other grants-in-aid that were part of the Charter amendment that voters approved in the last election. Council member Ron Menor has proposed just such an amendment for the other grants-in-aid that council members are proposing in addition to those that would be considered under the Charter amendment by a review committee. We support Council member Menor's approach. In this way, more funds will be available to nonprofits who have lost funding due to the reduction in CDBG funding and sequestration, but there will be a fair, open, and responsible review of proposals before awards are made. We believe this could also help prevent the problems that existed in the prior Leeward Coast Benefits Program. However, taxpayers have a right to know that if the Leeward Coast Benefits Program is restored, that there will not be a recurrence of the problems that led to its elimination by the previous administration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

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