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P5, Bill 14, CD1

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TESTIMONY BY ROBERT N.E. PIPER, ESQ., MBA  
TO  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
ON  
BILL 14, (2016) CD1: RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OPERATING  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM FOR  
THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

City Council Chamber, 23<sup>rd</sup> Session  
10:00 a.m.  
April 20, 2016

Chairman Martin, Vice-Chairman Anderson and Members of the City Council:

Aloha mai kākou. My name is Robert N.E. Piper and I thank you for the opportunity and honor to submit this written testimony relating to Bill 14 (2016), CD1, relating to the Executive Operating Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. My apologies for not being with you in person to deliver these comments, but due to pre-existing commitments I am unable to be with you.

I am the Executive Director of the Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. ("HCAP"), a private non-profit human services agency serving Oahu since 1965 through its mission of POI: Providing Opportunities and Inspiration to enable low-income individuals or families to achieve self-reliance. HCAP offers a range of programs and services in six major areas: Early Childhood; Employment; Education; Economic Development; Emergency and Transitional Programs; and Community Development and Advocacy.

In light of our status as a 501(c)(3) organization, and our participation as a service provider under the Federal Community Services Block Grant, we submit this testimony solely to share our experiences in assisting low-income unemployed and underemployed individuals with employment preparation, job skills training, case management, financial planning, and job placement.

HCAP has been providing employment assistance to low-income individuals for decades through its District Service Centers across Oahu. In January 2014, HCAP created the Na Lima Hana Employment Core Services (ECS) program as a stand-alone program to focus on developing stronger relationships with program participants and potential employers. The program assists a number of hard-to-serve populations such as at-risk youth ages 16-24, ex-offenders, seniors, and homeless individuals. HCAP also offers a range of programs and services to provide additional support to the program participants.

Since inception in January 2014, the ECS program has worked to see 522 participants complete pre-employment training. A total of 443 participants obtained employment (287 full-time, 156

part-time), 259 participants achieved 30 days of employment, 247 achieved 60 days of employment, and 203 achieved 90 days of employment.

Given the results we have seen from offering the Na Lima Hana Employment Core Services program to vulnerable populations, it is our experience that we are able to assist low-income individuals take meaningful steps towards self-sufficiency by helping them to obtain and maintain employment.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to assisting the low-income community. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 521-4531, or via e-mail at [hcap@hcapweb.org](mailto:hcap@hcapweb.org), if you have any questions.