



PHOCUSED

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

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DATE: February 18, 2010

TO: Representative Marcus Oshiro

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

RE: HB 2153 Relating to Taxation

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee, 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 HB 2153 and appreciates the efforts by this legislature to produce the needed revenues to ensure core support for the poor and needy while discouraging unhealthy behavior.** In addition, PHOCUSED believes that a discussion is needed on how best to allocate these funds, and respectfully offers to be part of that discussion.

As advocates for the Health, Housing, and Human Services sector we would like to express our support for this measure and other revenue-enhancing options, that will help fund the preservation of our social service safety net.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with you, and offer to be a resource to you in future deliberations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.