



# PHOCUSED

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

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TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senator David Ige  
Senator Brian Taniguchi  
And members of the Senate Human Services, Health, and Judiciary Committees

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

RE: SB 2469 Relating to the Emergency and Budget and Reserve Fund

Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ige, Senator Taniguchi and members of the Senate Human Services, Health, and Judiciary 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 2469 relating to the use of Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.**

PHOCUSED believes the original intent of establishing the 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. This recession is the worst we have ever faced. While we are hopeful that the economy will begin recovering soon, we are also very mindful of the reality that state funding has been reduced significantly to those programs servicing our most needy.

A recent survey conducted by HANO and PHOCUSED revealed that the needs of our most vulnerable have risen alarmingly, while services to address their needs continue to be cut by the state.

This measure will allow for a thoughtful discussion to be continued on how these funds should be used. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.