



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF HAWAII

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February 3, 2009

Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor
State Of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

We have read with dismay the proposals to eliminate funding grants to non-profits as a partial solution to the State's budget deficits. We urge you as strongly as possible to not do this. The various non-profits that provide services to poor people are basically assuming responsibility for doing work that the State should be doing. To deny funds to agencies such as Family Health & Human Services and Catholic Charities is unconscionable. The poor are already hit the hardest in tough economic times – why should they bear an even heavier burden?

It always sound good to say that you are making cuts across the board and no program can be spared. It sounds like that is only fair, except it isn't true. Some programs are more important than others. And those that affect the poor and helpless immediately are certainly more important than those that are more long term. Yes we need road repairs, BUT not at the expense of children at risk for child abuse! Further, the money saved now will only be replaced by larger sums later. As citizens, we may not be entitled now to preventive health care, But everyone is entitled to emergency care which is much more expensive.

Please make sure these important programs continue to be funded.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline Parnell, President
League of Women Voters of Hawaii

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa; Speaker Calvin K. Y. Say