

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

APRIL 30, 2001

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1377

Honorable Members
Twenty-First Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1377, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Civil Service."

The purpose of this bill is to convert temporary employees of the support services office, program development staff, and the nursing home without walls program within the Social Services Division of the Department of Human Services to civil service status.

This bill is objectionable because the incumbents will be grandfathered into the civil service system at their current compensation levels, which may or may not be appropriate for their place in the classification system. In addition, the bill does not identify the individual positions that are affected.

It is acknowledged that the incumbent employees have provided important service over the past years, many of them for ten years and more, and that they are deserving of some recognition of their service. Fortunately, Act 253, last year's civil service reform act, provides a mechanism for identification as well as conversion of positions to civil service in a systematic way. This mechanism takes into account merit principles, including meeting minimum qualification requirements, and a method for setting the compensation of the incumbents that is fair and equitable and in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill
No. 1377 without my approval.

Respectfully,


BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
Governor of Hawaii