

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



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February 19 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1776 - RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 19, 2009; 8:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 1776 is to require the Director of Public Safety to transmit monthly reports to the Department of Human Services (DHS) listing all newly admitted inmates during the previous month to a correctional facility. This measure further requires DHS to identify inmates who receive public assistance to enforce the prohibition of inmates from receiving public assistance.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

DHS defers to the Department of Public Safety regarding the intent and implementation of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

# *Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan*

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Date: February 18, 2009

To: Rep. J. Mizuno, Chair Committee on Human Services  
Rep. T. Brower, Vice Chair Committee on Human Services

Cc: Rep. Karen Awana, District Representative  
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, District Representative  
Sen. Colleen Hanabusa, District Senator

**Hearing: February 19, 2009 at 8:15am Rm. 329**

**Measure: HB1776: RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

Aloha and good morning Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members:

As I've previously submitted testimony on this measure, I would like to ask for your **FULL SUPPORT to HB 1776**. This assuring there is accountability and communication between two vital departments when an individual is incarcerated for any reason.

It is clear that many of these individuals who are admitted to a "prison" institution have dependents that may be receiving some form of public assistance to meet their basic needs. The benefits continue on an automatic system until someone has made a report of a change. This most often isn't done in a timely manner and therefore the benefits get paid out causing an overpayment of some sort and most importantly the benefits are getting to the people it was mostly meant for, i.e. minor children or dependents of the payee.

It is also clear that these types of measure need to be passed because the current system we have does not allow for the transferring of information automatically and yet we are in a system that should be "wrapped around" the needs of the general public.

Again I encourage you all to do the RIGHT thing and support the passage of this measure. Should you have additional questions or need more information feel free to call me at 783-9302.

Mahalo,  
Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan