

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2318, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

March 31, 2010

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RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

House Bill No. 2318, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, amends Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish the Housing First Special Fund and authorizes the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to implement Housing First programs and services subject to the availability of existing funds or housing special fund moneys.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

Furthermore, given the State's current financial situation, it does not appear fiscally prudent to establish the Housing First Special Fund if adequate resources are not available to fund any of the initiatives which may be forthcoming.