

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 24, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2617  
S.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2006  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2617, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to provide assistance to needy families by appropriating moneys for temporary assistance programs.

Specifically, this bill appropriates or authorizes unspecified amounts to programs that:

- (1) Promote higher skill level job preparation;
- (2) Establish safe, structured learning environments for children and youth during non-school hours;
- (3) Fall under the Social Services Block Grant and provide child welfare services;
- (4) Rectify homelessness;
- (5) Fall under the Child Care Development Block Grant; and
- (6) Offer cash assistance benefits for eligible Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program recipients.



This bill also appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for operating costs, including personnel, systems, and administrative expenses.

Finally, this bill directs DHS to involve the community in planning for the future use of TANF funds and to set annual goals and outcomes for programs receiving TANF funds.

Hawaii Women Work!, National Association of Social Workers, and a concerned citizen supported this bill. Blueprint for Change supported this measure with amendments. DHS and the Department of Health offered comments.

Your Committee recognizes that there is an ongoing dialogue to determine the best use of TANF funds. Further strategic planning, discussion, and careful financial and economic analysis of possible outcomes from expenditures are necessary to develop an effective, meaningful use of these funds.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2617, S.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services,



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ALEX M. SONSON, Chair



