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TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

February 7, 2008

HB 2427

RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2427.

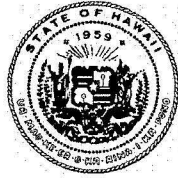
HRS Chapter 103F on Purchases of Health and Human Services, defines health and human services as "services to communities, families, or individuals which are intended to maintain or improve health or social well-being." HAR Section 3-140-101 states in part that health and human services include, but are not limited to "assessment, treatment, diagnosis, prevention, and education services provided directly to a target clientele." Conducting and expanding asset building classes to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills are health and human services applicable to HRS Chapter 103F. Whereas HRS Chapter 103D is the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, applicable to the procurement of goods, services, and construction, HRS Chapter 103F is the appropriate designated chapter to conduct procurements for asset building services.

The State Procurement Office recommends the following change to page 3, line 14 of Section 2 to read as:

The department of human services may enter into contracts pursuant to chapter ~~[103D]~~ 103F to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Thank you.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR
HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2427 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES**

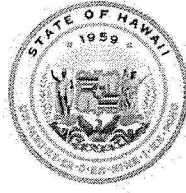
Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008; 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill directs the Department of Human Services to establish a three-year pilot project; beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services supports the intent of this bill but has concerns that the appropriation needed to implement this bill may adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The Department is also concerned that the bill has no provision to evaluate and inventory the existing services to determine if there is a need to establish new services for this population.

The Department currently already spends millions in TANF funds and State dollars for support, evaluation and training of this target population. This bill's requirement to assign additional TANF funds to these programs may result in cutting existing programs that the Department funds through TANF to assist needy families.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
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TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 7, 2008

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2427 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 2427**. The purpose of the bill is to direct DHS to establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with Fiscal Year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset-building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills.

The Council is not familiar with the assets building classes offered by DHS. However, we see this as a bridge for using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and State funds to enhance capacity of individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills for navigating the service delivery system, career development, increasing computer literacy, etc.

We defer to DHS for the use of TANF funds and cost of establishing and implementing the three-year pilot project. We note that this bill is the same as HB 2897-Making an Appropriation for Asset Building on the same agenda. The only difference is the title of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting the intent of HB 2427.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

**TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2008
SESSION**

To: House Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

From: Gary L. Smith, President
Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: House Bill 2427
Relating to Temporary Assistance For Needy Families

Hearing: February 7, 2008 9:15 AM
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing :

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2427, Relating to Temporary Assistance For Needy Families.

I am Gary L. Smith, President of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A). As you may know, we are the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We support this bill. Life for many individuals with disabilities has come a long way thanks to the advent of assistive technology. It has helped to integrate individuals into the workplace as well as other facets of life in the community. As technology advances, we can optimistically hope and assume that even greater strides will be made. An increased provision of assistive technology is one of the most direct, cost effective ways to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We are pleased to support this bill and hope the legislature will provide funding as it is able.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

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February 6, 2008

Honorable Representative Maile S. L. Shimabokuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2427, Relating To Temporary Assistance For Needy Families

Dear Representative Shimabokuro and Members of the Committee:

Advisory Council

Patricia Blum

Donna Buhman

June Callan

Catha Combs

David Fray

Peter Fritz

Lucy Gay

Alisa Mitchener

Jim Motonaga

Sberyl Nelson

Rebecca Rude Ozaki, Ph.D

Heinz-Guenther Pink, Ph.D

Doran Porter

Guy Tagomori

Charlotte Townsend

Charles Vesey

Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii supports the intent of HB2427 which directs the Department of Human Services to establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability by developing skills in:

- Linkages with existing community resources;
- Assessment and training on assistive technology;
- Career exploration; and
- Basic computer literacy.

One of the objectives of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is to promote work. Federal rules include time limits for receipt of TANF benefits, require states to achieve certain minimum rates of participation of recipients in work or work-related activities, require penalties for recipients who do not meet work and employment-preparation obligations, and impose fiscal penalties on states that do not meet participation requirements. These requirements signal a presumption that most individuals receiving TANF benefits can work and should be expected to do so. Yet studies have shown that approximately 44% of TANF recipients are individuals with disabilities with as much as 36% of recipients suffering from mental impairments. These individuals often have

Executive Director

Michael Jones

substantial barriers to employment, causing the work requirements and time limits imposed by TANF to have a more pronounced effect on them.

We encourage the legislature of Hawaii to fully implement HB2427 which would assist individuals with disabilities by providing the proper screening and assessment to determine needs and by simplifying the linkages between existing services, allowing for: ease of system navigation to find program modifications and support services, enabling greater participation and benefit from education and training programs and success in program compliance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Jones
Executive Director

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