



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

LATE

March 13, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2897, H.D. 1 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR ASSET
BUILDING**

Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill establishes a three-year pilot project within the Department of Human Services to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and the parents of children with a disability.

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.
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