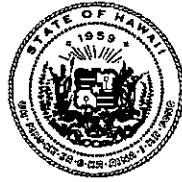


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 18, 2008

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 473, H.D. 2 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE  
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to expand the Bridge-to-Hope Program to enable all head of households receiving financial assistance and participating in the First-to-Work Program to pursue a full range of educational activities as part of their work activities and appropriates unspecified general funds.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, however, this bill is not necessary.

The Department respectfully requests that the Legislature continue to consider H.B. 2770, H.D. 1, or S.B. 2214, S.D. 1, that the Department support, as the vehicles to expand the Bridge-to-Hope Program to financial assistance recipients, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF), participating in the First-to-Work Program.

The Department has sufficient funds in its current appropriation and does not need an appropriation of general or federal funds to expand the Bridge-To-Hope program to other financial assistance recipients as this bill and H.B. 2770, H.D. 1, and S.B. 2214, S.D. 1 propose to do. We cannot support this bill as written as its passage will replace or adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

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

## testimony

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**From:** Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2008 12:20 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.  
**Subject:** HB473; 3/18; 1:15PM; Rm 016

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** Card for Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>



jfischer.vcf (343 B)

HB473, HD2, Regarding Bridge to Hope  
HTH; Chair, Sen Chun-Oakland

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

The Bridge to Hope program is our only state program that really supports the ultimate educational experience for welfare recipients: working on achieving a college degree. With the Federal government becoming even more restrictive in their view of "acceptable" programs for TANF recipients, it is up to our state government to take up the slack.

I believe the Feds are actually trying to keep the poor even more poor by fighting college education for TANF recipients. This really is class war against our most vulnerable citizens.

Please support the Bridge to Hope program because it really is that: a bridge to hope for the poorest people of Hawai'i.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW  
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

Professor  
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work Henke Hall Honolulu, HI 96822

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."  
Winston Churchill