

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Bridge To Hope
Serving UH Welfare Recipient Students

LATE

Date: March 18, 2008

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice-Chair

From: Teresa Bill, Univ. Hawai'i Bridge to Hope Coordinator ph: 956-9313

Re: HB473 HD2 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
Tuesday March 18, 2008 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016 1 copy to Committee Clerk, room 226

My name is Teresa Bill and. I am the Coordinator of the 10-campus University of Hawai'i Bridge to Hope program which works with the Dept. of Human Services. While I typically support any legislation that is moving Bridge to Hope forward to provide all First-to-Work participants an opportunity to pursue post-secondary education as part of their work activities, **I PREFER HB2770,HD1 passed out of this committee last week.** I thank the Committee for their support of Bridge to Hope but respectfully submit that HB473,HD2 is not necessary for Bridge to Hope to continue it's quest to offer access to education for all First-to-Work participants.

HB 473,HD2 was carried over from last session however it was not used for Bridge to Hope because of a title problem. Bridge to Hope seeks to extend eligibility for postsecondary education to all First-to-Work participants, including Temporary Assistance to OTHER Needy Families (TAONF) participants; thus the TANF title of HB473 was deemed inaccurate.

Additionally, DHS has indicated that additional funding was not needed to expand program eligibility, it could be offered within current budgets. Therefore the appropriation language in HB473 is not necessary for Bridge to Hope.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.