



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dliir.director@hawaii.gov

January 25, 2008

To: The Honorable Kalani English, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Date: January 28, 2008

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director Sam Aiona, Executive Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Office of Community Services

**Testimony Supporting the Intent (With Concerns)
for**

S.B. 2513 – Relating to Assisting Persons Under a Compact of Free Association

I. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 2513 appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (“Department”) for the creation of a full-time State Coordinator position. The State Coordinator position is intended to assess and promote the enhancement of self-sufficiency services provided to Compact of Free Association (“COFA”) migrants.

Additionally, the State Coordinator will promote partnerships between government agencies, community-based organizations, and the citizens-at large of the State in an effort to improve the living conditions of COFA migrants.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, the Department’s Office of Community Services (“OCS”) provides for the coordination of services to the COFA community.

S.B. 2513
January 25, 2008
Page 2

III. SENATE BILL

The Department supports the intent of S.B. 2513, however, we cannot support the current language or appropriation. Further, we believe this legislation is premature because the COFA Task Force is still working on its findings.