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March 3, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H. B. 1096, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**
Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill proposes to conform the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to the Federal Code by adding three new definitions of "work eligible household", "non-work eligible household", and "other work-eligible household" and repealing the definition of "exempt household in section 346-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and by adding the Federally conforming language to section 346-53(a), HRS.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill. The amendments being proposed are housekeeping measures to conform to the Code of Federal Regulations, 45 C.F.R. section 261.2(n) relating to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which established a definition of "work eligible individual" to be used in place of the term "non-exempt individual" effective February 5, 2008. The amendments to section 346-1, HRS, and section 346-53(a), HRS, will ensure that the same terminology is used in all statutes related to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

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