HB 1776

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Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan

Date: March 19, 2009

To: Senator Donna Mercado, Chair Ways And Means Committee
       Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair Ways And Means Committee
Cc: Rep. Karen Awana, District Representative
       Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, District Representative
       Sen. Colleen Hanabusa, District Senator

Hearing: April 3, 2009   9:45am   Rm: 211

Measure: HB1776HD1: RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Aloha and good morning Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members:

As I've previously submitted testimony on this measure, I would like to ask for your **FULL SUPPORT to HB 1776HD1**. This assuring there is accountability and communication between two vital departments when an individual is incarcerated for any reason. This is a "NO BRAINER" measure and disturbing that we need to introduce legislation to assure our departments and divisions' of government are in complete communication for the betterment of this state.

It is clear that many of these individuals who are admitted to a "prison" institution have dependents that may be receiving some form of public assistance to meet their basic needs. The benefits continue on an automatic system until someone has made a report of a change. This most often isn't done in a timely manner and therefore the benefits get paid out causing an overpayment of some sort and most importantly the benefits aren't getting to the people it was mostly meant for, i.e. minor children or dependents of the payee.

It is also clear that these types of measure need to be passed because the current system we have does not allow for the transferring of information automatically and yet we are in a system that should be "wrapped around" the needs of the general public.

Again I encourage you all to do the **RIGHT** thing and support the passage of this measure. Should you have additional questions or need more information feel free to call me at 783-9302.

Mahalo,
Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan