



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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February 5, 2009

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 732 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR ASSET BUILDING

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 732**. The purpose of the bill is to enhance asset building for individuals with disabilities and the parents of individuals with disabilities, and for DHS to establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with fiscal year 2009-2010, to conduct and expand asset-building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities in developing skills.

The Council sees this bill as a bridge for using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and State funds to enhance capacity of individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities in developing skills for navigating the service delivery system, career development, increasing computer literacy, etc. However, in light of the State's current financial situation, the Council suggests that new TANF Program funds to be appropriated, be considered to fund the three-year pilot project under "Employment/Training and/or Keeping Families Together".

We defer to DHS for the appropriate use of TANF funds and the cost of establishing and implementing the three-year pilot project.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting the intent of HB 732.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator