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March 23, 2009

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Date: March 23, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Testimony in Strong Support  
of  
S.B. 1568 S.D. 2 - Relating to Unemployment Insurance**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

S.B. 1568 S.D. 2 proposes to amend Chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to add new sections to extend unemployment benefits to individuals seeking part-time work and to workers separated from employment for a compelling family reason.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Currently, there is no comparable section on part-time benefits or separation for compelling family reasons. Under section 12-5-47, Administrative Rules, Chapter 5, Title 12, good cause is provided if for leaving employment where there is a change in the individual's marital or domestic status.

**III. SENATE BILL**

The Department strongly supports this measure that intends to allow benefits to individuals who seek part-time work only and to those who separate due to compelling family reasons. By policy and practice, the Department has applied the law consistent

with the provisions in this measure. However, this measure will serve to codify and affirm our current practice in conformity with provisions of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.